

Pakistan, Afghanistan clash

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's Foreign Ministry summoned Afghanistan's senior diplomat in Islamabad on Sunday, charging that Kabul had launched missiles and dropped bombs on Pakistani territory. The protest came a day after Pakistan's envoy in Kabul was summoned by the Afghan Foreign Ministry for the second time in a week over Islamabad's alleged interference on the side of Afghan guerrilla forces. A Pakistani Foreign Ministry statement said a strong protest was lodged with Kabul's charge d'affaires over two ground-to-ground missile attacks during October and an incursion by three Afghan warplanes which dropped four bombs. A child was killed and two women were injured when one missile struck the Landi Khana area of Pakistan's tribal Khyber agency near the border with Afghanistan, the statement said. On Saturday, the Pakistani envoy in Kabul was handed a protest note charging that a Pakistani helicopter flew over Afghanistan into southern Afghanistan on an inspection tour of rebel posts, Kabul's official Balkh news agency reported. Last week, the Pakistani charge d'affaires was summoned to receive a protest over what the Afghan government said were plans by the Pakistani army and intelligence to destroy three hydroelectric dams in Afghanistan.

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PLO adviser welcomes Washington as venue

NICOSIA (R) — An advisor to Yasser Arafat said on Sunday that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would welcome Washington as a venue for the next phase of the Middle East peace process. Bassam Abu Sharif added that the PLO would also agree to deployment of U.S. troops in occupied Arab territories if that would bring about an Israeli withdrawal. "The Palestine Liberation Organisation welcomes Washington as a venue for bilateral talks (between Israel and the Arabs)," he said in a statement sent to Reuters in Nicosia. Mr. Abu Sharif said the PLO had agreed to a proposal from President George Bush for Palestinian self-government in a year as a "transitional step towards the final phase leading to self-determination for the Palestinian people." But he added that "to accomplish the first phase" Israel should withdraw from the territories occupied in 1967. "We will suggest withdrawing U.N. or multinational forces to replace Israeli troops. But if Israel refuses we will agree to forces from the two powers sponsoring the conference (U.S. and the Soviet Union) or American forces," he said. Abu Sharif said the PLO would seek a timetable for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories along the lines of the South African withdrawal that was part of the U.N.-sponsored independence settlement in Namibia.

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Gonzalez meets Ashrawi, Hussein

MADRID (Petra) — Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez Sunday met with members of the Palestinian steering committee, Hanan Ashrawi and Faisal Al Hussein, and reviewed with them the latest developments at the Middle East peace conference, bilateral talks and Spain's role and that of the European Community (EC) in supporting the peace process. The meeting was attended by the Spanish foreign minister.

Warplane show opens in UAE

DUBAI (AP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) defence minister Sunday inaugurated a major international air show concentrated on warplanes but stressed the need for peace in the Middle East. "We support the Palestinian cause, and we want peace," Sheikh Mohammad Bin Khalid Al Maktoum told reporters after kicking off Dubai '91 International Aerospace and Defence Exhibition, the first aerospace trade show held in the Gulf since the end of the Gulf war. He said it was not hypocritical to hold an aerospace show while Arab-Israeli peace talks were under way in Madrid "because defence is a part of supporting the process."

Azerbaijan asks Turkey to recognise its independence

ANKARA (R) — Azerbaijan Prime Minister Hasan Hasanov, starting a visit to Turkey Sunday, said he wanted Ankara to recognise the independence of his Turkish-speaking Soviet republic. "If Turkey and Iran do not recognise our independence, the world will not also recognise us," the Anatolian news agency quoted Mr. Hasanov as saying. "Besides Turkey, Azerbaijan wants its independence to be recognised by all countries." Azerbaijan borders Iran and the Azerbaijan enclave of Nakhichevan has a border with Turkey. The republic, which has religious, ethnic and cultural ties with Turkey, declared independence from the Soviet Union in August. Turkey said at the time that Azerbaijan leaders had asked Ankara not to offer immediate recognition.

Macedonia meets with Macedonia leader

ROME (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi met Sunday with the president of the Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for discussions on improving cooperation. The official Libyan news agency IANA reported. The dispatch, monitored in Rome, did not give any details of the talks between Colonel Qadhafi and Slobodan Milosevic.

Greek Cypriot held in north

NICOSIA (AP) — A 20-year-old man who told his family he was returning to his occupied village in the breakaway state in north Cyprus is in custody there, officials said Sunday. Marinos Sfongaris was remanded for eight days on Friday by a court in Turkish-Cypriot Nicosia, U.N. officials said. Mr. Sfongaris left home on Thursday evening in his father's car, leaving a note that he was going to his village of Ayios Georgios near the seaport of Famagusta. That area, like the rest of the northern third of the island, has been under Turkish occupation since 1974. The car was found by police on Friday near a National Guard post at the so-called "green line" in Nicosia.

Agha, Soviets sign peace pact

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghanistan and the Soviet Union signed a trade pact on Sunday in which Moscow pledged to continue food deliveries to Kabul, state-run Kabul Radio said. The protocol, covering 1991/92, was signed in Kabul by Soviet Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade Alexander Bakhtinov and Afghan Planning Minister Guliam Mikheddin Sadeh. Afghan President Najibullah held talks with Mr. Bakhtinov and urged the Soviet Union to speed up negotiations to Afghan natural gas.

Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli talks 'businesslike'

No agreement yet on venue for further meetings; U.S. and Soviet mediation sought
Syrians seen seeking to ensure continuity of conference and climate for Arab coordination

Special from Madrid

ARAB-ISRAELI bilateral talks got off the ground Sunday with two rounds of negotiations between a 10-member joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and an Israeli team made up of seven members. Talks between Lebanon and Israel started later and between Syria and Israel were expected to follow Sunday evening.

The Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli talks, which lasted a few hours, were concentrated on procedural issues but they failed to produce agreement on the venue and date for follow up peace negotiations, which should take substance rather than form. In the morning session, held at the Palacio Pardo, the two sides exchanged opening remarks, in which they pledged to pursue the talks with open minds and hearts, and discussed the two procedural questions of where and when to continue the negotiation and in what form.

The Jordanians and Palestinians insisted on continuing the talks in Madrid while Israel expressed opposition to the idea, saying bilateral negotiations should be conducted in the area. For instance in Aqaba and Eilat, as far as Jordan is concerned, and at Ras Naqura as far as Lebanon is concerned. Neither in this round, nor in the afternoon session could the two sides reach agreement, apparently leaving it up to the two co-sponsors, the U.S. and the Soviet Union, to determine the venue and the date for the next round.

Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali,

head of the Jordanian side to the joint delegation, was meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker last night to see what the U.S. intended to do to break the deadlock.

During the afternoon session, the Jordanians and Palestinians had indicated to the Israelis that they might be willing to entertain going to another European capital, such as Paris or London or Lausanne, to hold the meetings. But, according to reliable sources, the Americans were moving to suggest Washington as the location. The Soviets have reportedly been opposed to Washington, but reports were emerging last night that they might eventually accept it if multilateral regional talks would take place in Moscow as a counterbalance to having one capital of the two co-sponsors being the venue of the talks.

The other procedural issue that eluded agreement in the first session was an Israeli demand to keep together the two sides of the joint delegation when discussing all issues on the agenda. Both the Jordanians and the Palestinians had objected, since the Israeli demand contradicted earlier understanding on the matter. And it was not until the negotiations emerged from their second meeting that the Israelis indicated that they were dropping their condition thus averting further disagreement between the two sides.

In his statement to the press in the afternoon, Dr. Majali described the meeting as businesslike.

The following is the text of the joint statement issued by the Israeli and the Jordanian-Palestinian peace delegations following nearly five hours of talks Sunday. The statement was read by Jordanian team leader Abdul Salam Majali:

"In the name of God the Compassionate, the Merciful. The joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the Israeli delegation met today to start direct negotiations on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. These negotiations will be conducted along two tracks: A Palestinian-Israeli track and a Jordanian-Israeli track.

"The talks were held in a good, businesslike atmosphere. Matters discussed were procedural issues at the talks, which it is hoped will take place soon.

"The parties expressed their views on the possible venue of the negotiations. Consultations will continue in this regard, as well as on other matters pertaining to the negotiations.

Elyakim Rubinstein of Israel: "I would like to add that we basically agree with the statement. We would only like to point out that the negotiations on the matters pertaining to the Palestinians will be conducted first, in the first phase, on an interim self-government arrangement as you already know, and I would like to thank my friends here."

Haider Abdul Shafi of the Palestinians: "I would like to say here that we reserve the Palestinian position about the priorities in the negotiations."

Israeli shelling of Lebanon eases; tension remains high

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Israeli artillery shells hit South Lebanon villages for the sixth day running Sunday but Lebanese security sources said the bombardment had eased.

A military showdown between guerrillas and Israeli troops and their Lebanese militia allies remained only a trigger squeeze away, with both sides keeping their forces in combat positions. No casualties were reported in the shelling of villages in the Iqlim Al Toufah and Nabatiyeh districts, used by pro-Iranian Hizbullah (Party of God) guerrillas as a springboard for hit-and-run attacks on Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone."

Thousands of villagers, forced to flee by five days of shelling and broadcast warnings from the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, began returning to their homes, police reported.

Many spent Saturday night with relatives or huddled in mosques and churches in Sidon, Lebanon's southern port city. They began returning in small car convoys to villages north of the "security zone" despite heavy rains.

By mid-morning, more than 15,000 had reached the South Lebanon town of Nabatiyeh and the adjacent village of Kfar Ruman, police said.

Many families fled after the SLA broadcast a message on its

radio station Saturday saying Israel wanted about 100,000 people cleared from some 100 villages within 1.5 kilometres of the northern edge of the "security zone."

The zone, covering about 1,100 square kilometres, was carved out by Israel in South Lebanon in 1985 to protect its northern settlements from infiltration.

Kfar Ruman was all but emptied of civilians after SLA men sounded air raid sirens from a nearby outpost, then broadcast an announcement saying "the Israeli defence forces order you to evacuate your village along with Lebanese army elements deployed in it within 12 hours." The army units reportedly stayed put.

In Israel, the army command and defence ministry both denied the order had been issued.

The bombardment began on the eve of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid after Hizbullah vowed to step up attacks to sabotage the Arab-Israeli talks. Six Israeli soldiers were killed and 11 wounded in a wave of guerrilla raids in October.

Lebanese Prime Minister Omar Karamei emerged from crisis talks in Beirut saying Foreign Minister Faris Bouze had reported from Madrid the United States told Israel to end attacks on South Lebanon.

But Israel's Defence Minister Moshe Arens denied reports of U.S. pressure to end the shelling.



OLIVE BRANCH: An Israeli officer in Arab East Jerusalem asks Palestinian peace demonstrators to disperse saying they could become involved in clashes with opponents of the Madrid peace conference.

Baker says no U.S. peace plan, but will help bridge proposals

From our correspondent in Washington

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Sunday that while it would be a mistake for the U.S. to present its own peace plan on the bargaining table in Madrid, it still holds open the possibility of bridging various proposals that could be submitted by other parties if negotiations ran into a deadlock.

"I would be surprised if there are no proposals that will be forthcoming from both sides once the bilateral negotiations begin," Mr. Baker said in an interview with NBC Television Sunday morning.

"The responsibility of the United States and the Soviet Union as co-sponsors and as honest brokers is to be ready to submit bridging proposals when the time comes to do that," Mr. Baker said in the interview, taped at 5 a.m. Eastern time. The initial Syrian and Lebanese decision was not to participate in bilateral talks with Israel. Talks had already begun between the Israeli delegation and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Mr. Baker asserted that as the two co-sponsors of the Middle East peace conference, Washington and Moscow indeed have some bridging proposals thought out in case they are needed.

"I think it would be a terrible

mistake for us to ... lay on the table a United States plan because then everybody would begin to take shots at it and it would have, in my view, a half life of about a week," Mr. Baker said.

"It is incumbent on the United States ... to try to help the parties bridge their differences on substance (and) also ... their differences on procedure," he said, adding that U.S. officials had spent the better part of Saturday night "trying to get help the parties bridge their differences on the procedural issue (of) where the bilateral negotiations will begin."

Israel wants the next round of negotiations to take place in the Middle East asserting that would provide proof of Arab recognition of Israel. But the Arab parties were pressing for talks to be held in Washington or Williamsburg, Virginia could be compromise locations.

Mr. Baker, who would not exclude any venue, said officials would continue to work in Madrid for a while and "if we can't make it happen here then we reserve the right to suggest any of the different host of ways and venues for solving the problem."

"We are not going to walk away from the process. We've worked too hard to bring it to this point. It is too important. But we

cannot want peace more than the parties themselves..." he said.

Mr. Baker said he believed all of the participants in the peace conference want to continue. "I think they all see it as the best chance or opportunity in a long time and I don't think anybody wants to lose it," he said.

Mr. Baker said he was scheduled to depart for Washington Sunday evening, feeling confident and comfortable leaving behind the "terrible team" in charge of matters in Madrid. Phase two of the negotiations began with an initial meeting between Israeli and the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, followed by a delayed meeting between the Israelis and Syrians and the Israelis and Lebanese.

Asked whether it would be possible to move towards Palestinian autonomy without concurrence by the Syrians, Mr. Baker said it would indeed be possible but pointed out that it would be "far better" if the Syrians and Lebanese were part of the process. "That would make it more likely, I think, that some sort of an ultimate agreement on Arab self-government arrangement, or indeed even permanent status, can be arranged," he said.

Mr. Baker said that what may seem to outsiders to be small

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Arafat to ask Gorbachev to ensure emigres are not sent to occupied lands

TUNIS (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Sunday that he would ask Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to put a halt to emigration of Jews to Israel.

Speaking at a conference on Palestinian rights, Mr. Arafat said that the Soviet leader must ensure that the Jewish emigrants do not settle in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"This concerns a transfer of population at the expense of the Palestinian people," Mr. Arafat said.

Mr. Arafat called Mr. Gorbachev a "friend," though the PLO took a lukewarm attitude in August when hardliners staged a failed coup in Moscow. Some PLO officials hoped the putsch leaders might restrain Jewish emigration towards Israel.

Hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews have settled in Israel since Moscow eased travel rules last year, and up to one million are eventually expected.

Though few have settled in the occupied territories, home to 1.7 million Palestinians, Arab leaders

fear they will eventually do so, making it impossible to create a Palestinian state there.

Mr. Arafat meanwhile reaffirmed that Palestinian negotiators at the Middle East peace conference in Madrid represent the PLO, as the joint Jordanian-Palestinian negotiating team began its first round of bilateral talks with the Israeli delegation.

"The Palestinian delegation to this conference has demonstrated that it represents the PLO," Mr. Arafat said in a speech opening a three-day conference on Palestinian human rights attended by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark.

"This constitutes evidence that the PLO, based in Tunis, is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," Mr. Arafat said.

Israel adopted a hard line before the conference opened last Wednesday that it would not negotiate with PLO.

But though the Palestinians on the negotiating team are not PLO members, it has become increasingly evident that they are

strong PLO supporters.

Mr. Arafat was answering criticism that the non-direct participation in the talks had weakened the PLO. Some Palestinian factions have threatened to quit the organisation, or to sabotage the talks.

"If we've accepted to go to the Madrid conference, it's not because of weakness on our part, but with the goal of showing everyone that the problem is Zionist intransigence," Mr. Arafat said.

The PLO chairman attacked Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for "flouting international legality" in refusing to yield the occupied territories.

Mr. Arafat vowed that the nearly four-year-old intifada will continue until the Palestinian flag flies over East Jerusalem.

Over 2,000 Palestinians have been killed, 92,000 injured, and 89,000 detained by Israeli authorities in the uprising, Mr. Arafat said. He also said that a famine was under way in the Gaza Strip "that nobody talks about."

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Crown Prince praises Palestinian performance

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Sunday that the Palestinians have been acclaimed internationally and "humanised" by the Madrid peace conference as U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had called for.

"They did not call for vengeance," the Crown Prince said. "They very clearly called for their people to be free, all to be protected by the international community," he said in an interview with CBS television.

"They came through very much as players, and that is absolutely the personal contribution of Hanan Ashrawi who is sharp and responded effectively to many stereotypes about the Palestinians and the Arabs," he said.

On future Jordanian-Palestinian relations, Prince Hassan said: "I think it is premature to comment. All I can say is that the Jordanian-Palestinian rela-

tionship will be certainly discussed at length both in Madrid or wherever, and here, and indeed, across the river in the Palestinian territories. I think that it is the other side of the coin that we are getting a good look at each other's views and in reality of each other's positions, and the extend of each other's commitment. Thus far there has been satisfaction on both sides."

Asked if there was anything unexpected which came out of the Madrid peace conference, Prince Hassan said: "I think the degree of emotional impact that I predicted, particularly by the media, has probably — if you took an opinion poll — caused more people to be directly involved in the process than I had ever imagined. We spoke about educating and learning process on the horizons of peace, and the dividend of peace. I think this learning process has gone far beyond what I imagined."

Lebanon and Syria begin bilateral talks with Israel

MADRID (Agencies) — Israel and Lebanon opened face-to-face talks in Madrid and Syria and the Jewish state were to meet later Sunday night as part of the Middle East peace conference.

The Lebanese-Israeli meeting, in Pardo Palace, followed earlier talks between Israel and a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation which lasted 4½ hours.

The Syrian-backed Lebanese government delayed the meeting until after Damascus, Israel's most implacable foe, announced it would hold bilateral talks with Israel later Sunday.

Lebanon's main concern in the peace process is to secure an Israeli military withdrawal from so-called "security zone" in South Lebanon. A five-day Israeli bombardment of villages in Lebanon eased Sunday after the intervention of the United States, which was concerned it could undermine the peace process.

A Lebanese official said where to continue talks had not been resolved. Israel wants the talks to move to the Middle East, but the Arabs say holding meetings in Israel would be de facto recognition of the Jewish state.

Earlier in the day, there was confusion about separate talks. Israel said the Syrians and Lebanese failed to attend scheduled mid-morning talks, but the Arabs said they had never agreed to that starting time.

Damascus kept the world guessing in a day-long game of diplomatic brinkmanship before agreeing to meet face-to-face with the Jewish state.

After intense lobbying involving U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, Damascus told its negotiators to attend the talks but discuss only the substance of peace and not a change of venue.

Direct talks between Israel and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation began first. Hours later, Syria issued a statement claiming about reports that it might walk out and committing itself to starting bilateral talks with Israel.

Officials said the Syrian-Israeli talks would follow, possibly going past midnight. A series of late-night news briefings were scheduled so key participants could

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PLO official predicts resumption of dialogue

By Wafa Amr
The Associated Press

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) expects a resumption of its ruptured dialogue with the United States within the next six months, a top PLO official said Sunday.

Bassam Abu Sharif, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, also said that leaders of Arab states and the Palestinians attending the Madrid peace conference would meet after the first round of bilateral talks "to reassess developments related to the peace parley."

He did not say when or where the meeting would take place between Mr. Arafat and leaders of Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon. He said Saudi Arabia and Morocco also might participate.

Mr. Abu Sharif predicted that the dialogue with American officials, suspended in July 1990, "will be resumed in a maximum period of six months."

He said he based this on the assumption that the PLO would be rewarded for the "constructive" attitude of the PLO concerning the ongoing Middle East peace process.

The PLO while barred from participating in the Madrid talks, by Israel's refusal to deal with it, has been heavily involved in behind-the-scenes support for the Palestinian delegation there from

the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

U.S. embassy officials could not immediately be reached for comment on Mr. Abu Sharif's remarks.

The United States opened an official dialogue with the PLO in January 1989 following the organisation's renunciation of terrorism and its recognition of Israel's right to exist.

Washington suspended the talks 18 months later when Mr. Arafat refused to denounce an aborted attack on a Tel Aviv beach carried out by a PLO faction headed by Mohammad Abbas.

Another senior PLO official confirmed that the PLO expected Washington to resume the dialogue.

"The United States had assured the Palestinians (at the peace talks) that the dialogue will be resumed with the PLO after bilateral talks between Arabs and Israel start," said the official, who insisted on anonymity.

The official said the PLO played a significant role in getting the Madrid talks started and resumed Western efforts to pretend this was not so.

"It is directly involved, whether in choosing Palestinian representatives to the peace conference or in directing the Palestinian negotiators in Madrid," he

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Peres, Weizman hopeful Madrid talks open way for coexistence

CAIRO (AP) — Two prominent Israeli politicians, Shimon Peres and Ezer Weizman, expressed hope in separate telephone interviews with a leading Egyptian newspaper that the Madrid talks would eventually lead to peaceful Arab-Israeli coexistence.

In the interviews, carried by Al-Ahram, Mr. Peres, the head of the Israeli opposition Labour Party, also said his group would support Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir if he opted for peace and the move resulted in the withdrawal of the ultra-rightist religious parties from his government.

Mr. Peres said his party would vote for peace in the Israeli parliament.

"I firmly stand by peace and will do anything in my power to support the peace process," Mr. Peres said.

He said the Madrid peace conference has actually succeeded in achieving five important results.

"First, all the region's countries are now very near to achieving peace; second, Israel has recognised the Palestinian negotiators, a matter that never happened before; third, the Arab World is now close to recognising Israel; fourth, the two superpowers and the rest of the world have become involved in trying to create a new reality in the region."

The former prime minister said the fifth result is that "we are not only speaking about achieving peace but we also are talking about bringing the region to a new era of economic cooperation, improving the standard of living of its people and solving the problem of (Palestinian) refugees."

Mr. Peres said his party's peace plan calls for a halt in building more Jewish settlements on the occupied Arab territories, and end to Arab economic boycott of Israel and exchanging land for peace.

Mr. Weizman said the Madrid conference represented a first step on a long path and a continuation of the peace process. Egypt and Israel began in 1978 with the help of the United States.

Mr. Weizman, a former defence minister who now is an independent member of the Israeli parliament, had participated in the process which produced a peace treaty between the two countries a year later.

"I wish to see our relations with Syria patterned according to the example of our relations with Egypt including solutions concerning territories," Mr. Weizman said in an apparent reference to the Sinai Peninsula which Israel returned to Egypt as stipulated in the peace treaty, the only one between an Arab and Israel.

"I wish to see Israeli aircraft arriving in Damascus and Syrian planes in Israel. I wish to see land roads connecting us to Beirut and



Shimon Peres

a joint communication network enabling us to talk like you did when you called me at home from Cairo," Mr. Weizman said.

"I wish to be able to contact friends in Damascus, Amman and Beirut," he said.

"We cannot achieve full peace with Syria without returning the Golan Heights to her as we did when we returned Sinai to Egypt," he said.

"This is a precondition before



Ezer Weizman

any talk on having good relations with Damascus," he said.

"What goes to the Golan Heights should be applied to the West Bank and Gaza," Mr. Weizman said, indicating that Israel should give up the Arab territories it took in the 1967 war.

Both Mr. Peres and Mr. Weizman said the problem of East Jerusalem could be solved on a religious and humanitarian basis but offered no specific solution.

Talk of Afghan peace passes fighters by

TALOQAN, Afghanistan (R) — Foreign radio broadcasts beamed into Afghanistan feature almost daily news of diplomatic efforts to end the country's 13-year-old civil war.

But on the rocky trails marking guerrilla supply lines over the Hindu Kush Mountains of northern Afghanistan, talk of power-sharing, interim governments and elections finds few takers.

Caravans of donkeys, each laden with 107-mm ground-to-ground rockets, shells or mortar bombs, file past on their way from guerrilla staging points in northern Pakistan.

Top guerrilla commander Ahmad Shah Masood, whose supervisory council dominates much of northeastern Afghanistan, says he is ready to talk about a negotiated end to war but not on the terms bandied around in Pakistan and at the United Nations.

The U.N. is concentrating on getting guerrilla leaders and government elements in Kabul to agree on a list of acceptable people who could sit down to talk about forming a transitional administration, halt the fighting and hold elections.

Mr. Masood, speaking in a recent interview at a base in the mountains above the market town of Talqan, rejected continued participation of the former communist Watan (Homeland) party which rules Kabul and other major centres.

"They must go," he said repeatedly. "They must not remain."

Hopes of a peaceful settlement have risen in recent weeks following an agreement by the United States and the Soviet Union to halt weapons shipments to the two sides in the war.

Mujahideen leaders based in the Pakistani frontier city of Peshawar are preparing to send a delegation to Moscow to talk about peace if they can settle differences over who should go and what they should talk about.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Baghdad Radio still subject to jamming

NICOSIA (R) — Eight months after the U.S.-led coalition defeated Iraq in the war over Kuwait, Baghdad Radio is still subjected to heavy jamming in the Gulf region. Monitors say interference, apparently from the northern Gulf, makes Baghdad Radio faint, distorted and noisy. The disruption began soon after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990. Medium-wave frequencies are inaudible in most Gulf Arab states during the day and short-wave frequencies are often difficult to hear.

60 fundamentalists held in Morocco

RABAT (R) — Police have raided the university in the northeast Moroccan town of Oujda and arrested 60 Muslim fundamentalist students, the outlawed Adl Wal Ihsan movement said Sunday. The roundup, early Saturday, was the first big crackdown since leftist and fundamentalist clashes last month on campuses in Oujda and Fez. Student disturbances spread Friday to Kenitra, north of Rabat, where leftist said six students were seriously injured and car windows smashed. The opposition press has reported that Muslim activists from around the country gathered in Fez and Oujda with knives, steel bars, nail-studded clubs and bicycle chains for "punitive expeditions" against leftists. The Kaitydine movement and the fundamentalist Adl Wal Ihsan have accused each other of instigating violence in which 50 students are reported to have suffered serious injuries. Kaitydine is a small left-wing group disowned by opposition Socialist and Communist parties. Adl Wal Ihsan was banned in January 1990.

Early leader of Israeli Labour Party dies at 81

TEL AVIV (AP) — Yosef Almogi, one of the early leaders of the opposition Labour Party, died Saturday after struggling to recuperate from a fall, a party spokesman said. He was 81. Mr. Almogi, born in Poland in 1910, immigrated to Israel in 1930. He served in the British army during World War II and was taken prisoner by the German army in Greece in 1941. In 1945 he was released and returned to Israel. After the founding of the state, Mr. Almogi joined the Mapai Party that later formed the Labour Party. He was a parliament member for 22 years and served as labour minister and housing minister. From 1959 to 1961 Mr. Almogi was acting secretary general of Mapai, and from 1976 to 1979 he served as chairman of the Jewish Agency, a quasi-governmental agency responsible for immigration. Labour Party's Secretary General Micha Harish issued a statement of mourning: "The labour movement in Israel has lost one of its great leaders, who gave his entire life to the state of Israel, to the Jewish people and to the labour movement." Mr. Almogi's funeral was planned for Sunday in Haifa.

Fahd receives letter from Mitterrand

NICOSIA (R) — French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas Saturday delivered a letter from President Francois Mitterrand to Saudi King Fahd, the Saudi Press Agency reported. The Agency, received in Cyprus, said Mr. Dumas arrived in the Saudi Red Sea port of Jeddah earlier in the day from Egypt. It did not disclose the contents of Mr. Mitterrand's letter or give any other details.

Iraqi paper says foreign elements in north

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's army newspaper accused foreign elements Sunday of instigating fighting between Kurds and the army in northern Iraq last month: to foil an autonomy deal. "Foreign quarters stand behind the start of fighting and the killing of Iraqi officers and soldiers in Sulaimaniyah province," Al Qadisiya said in an editorial. Kurdish guerrillas plot to death at least 60 Iraqi soldiers captured and disarmed in the clashes, a Reuters correspondent reported from the scene last month. "Criminal and hating elements found a suitable climate to concoct riots and deliberately remove government authority to create an atmosphere of tension so that the autonomy dialogue will not succeed," Al Qadisiya said. It said the government had behaved calmly and treated the events with patience hoping that with the conclusion of the autonomy agreement, such elements would be kicked out of the country.

Rebels kill 1, wound 6 in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Kurdish separatist gunmen killed a civilian and wounded six others when they ambushed a pickup truck and a bus in southeast Turkey, security officials said Sunday. The truck crashed into a ditch after coming under fire from guerrillas of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) near the town of Hazro in Diyarbakir province. The victims all worked for Turkey's state-owned mining research institute. Three men with them escaped unhurt. PKK rebels fired on a gendarmerie post in the town of Kurtalan, in Siirt province, on Saturday night. There were no casualties, the officials said. More than 3,300 people have been killed in the mainly Kurdish southeast since the PKK began its independence war in 1984.

1,500 Sri Lankans protest against Mideast talks

COLOMBO (R) — About 1,500 Muslims marched through a Sri Lankan town Sunday denouncing the Middle East peace conference in Madrid, witnesses said. They said the Muslims, who gathered to mark one year since Tamil rebels chased them from their homes in the north and northwest regions, condemned the conference and said Palestinians owned the land they lived in. "The demonstrators carried placards and shouted slogans, voicing their protest. They said the United States and its allies were imposing peace on the Palestinians after imposing war," said local politician S. Ilyas by telephone from Puttalam, 120 kilometres north of Colombo. In October last year, rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam fighting for a separate Tamil state ordered Muslims to leave northern homes saying the land belonged to them. "In a sense, our plight is like the Palestinian case. Like the Palestinians, we have been chased away from our homes and live in refugee camps," Mr. Ilyas, a Muslim, said. There are about 45,000 Muslim refugees in Puttalam.

Exhibitors target Gulf at 'rebuild Kuwait' show

BAHRAIN (R) — Foreign companies at a "rebuild Kuwait" exhibition which opened in Bahrain Saturday say they hope it will help them attract business from the entire Gulf area.

Most of the exhibitors interviewed at the show — the biggest of its kind ever held in the region — said they wanted to expand their markets in Kuwait's Gulf Arab neighbours.

"If we were coming here only to rebuild Kuwait we would be quite disappointed because it's not such a big country... and there isn't that much to rebuild in Kuwait," said Giancarlo Lamio of the Italian Foreign Trade Institute, who heads the Italian delegation.

Organisers say 1,000 companies from 43 countries are taking part and about 20,000 visitors are expected. Products on show range from building materials and industrial equipment, to furniture, home security systems, and ice-cream machines.

"Italy has 160 companies at the six-day event, the largest number of any country. British firms have rented the largest amount of floor space."

"This was a good opportunity for Italian companies to widen their contacts in the Gulf area or to introduce themselves if they were not already here," said Mr. Lamio.

Regional carriers Gulf Air and Kuwait Airways said they had laid on extra flights to shuttle about 1,000 Kuwaiti businessmen to and from Bahrain during the first few days of the show.

But exhibitors said they had seen few Kuwaitis on Saturday. "I've had three good enquiries from Saudi Arabia but there don't seem to be many Kuwaitis here — I've not met a single one," Emad Turkman from U.K.-based shelving firm Dexion said.

Companies from China, and from Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland are also attending the show in what for many is their first visit to the region.

Kuwait was the only Gulf state to have long-standing ties with the former communist countries of Eastern Europe. Most of the others began establishing relations last year.

Failed Arrow missile test reported; project delayed

TEL AVIV (AP) — A recent test of the Israeli Arrow missile has failed, significantly delaying the U.S.-funded project that has been described as a key element in Israel's future defence, Israeli reports said Sunday.

The Arrow, reportedly being developed at a cost of up to \$500 million, is designed to bring down missiles like the Scuds fired at Israel by Iraq during the Gulf war.

Newspapers reported that leaders of the Arrow project were "confused" by the malfunction, which the papers said followed two previous failed test flights.

"There was indeed a small difficulty which is now under review," said Phil Herman, spokesman for the Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) which is developing the missile. He did not elaborate.

During last Wednesday's test, "a lot of data was collected. The test will assist in further development of the project. The launch is considered useful," Mr. Herman said in an interview.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens, an aeronautics expert, was asked about the reported failure on Israel army radio.

"You did not hear me say it

failed," he said. "The Arrow is a development project. Those who imagine that each test will do exactly what we think it would, don't understand anything about development."

"The goal of the tests is to see what are the faults... in order to improve the missile," Mr. Arens said.

The missile was test-fired from a vessel of central Israel at another missile designed to imitate an incoming ballistic weapon, three leading Israeli dailies reported.

In Wednesday's test, operators soon lost control of the Arrow and exploded it in mid-air, the reports said.

The daily Haaretz, which carried the most detailed report, said there had been a similar failure during the three launches, with the missile stopping its relay of flight data to a ground control station.

This time, it stopped broadcasting within seconds of the launch, Haaretz said, adding IAI engineers were working "around the clock" to locate the source of the malfunction.

The paper reported that during the first test, on Aug. 9, 1990, the

missile stopped transferring data after six seconds of flight. A ground control officer, fearing it might hit a population area, ordered the missile to destroy itself.

During the second test last March 25, the missile was fired from a ship so as to avoid a possible self-destruction order, and ground control stations stopped receiving data after 26 seconds, it said. The missile completed its flight without broadcasting data.

The defence ministry has described the second test as successful and said at the time the missile had completed "an intercepter test flight."

Haaretz said the project was now over a year behind its schedule, with last week's test originally planned for Sept. 1990.

A test scheduled for March-April 1992 would "most likely" be postponed and a simulation test might be carried out before an actual launch to locate the malfunction, it reported.

Haaretz said some U.S. Congress members and Pentagon officials are pointing at the third failed launch to prove that Israel

would not be able to develop the missile.

The Arrow anti-missile has been described as a key to Israel's defence against non-conventional weapons.

During the Gulf war, when Iraq fired 39 improved Scud missiles at Israel, U.S.-made Patriot anti-missile batteries were rushed here. Some were successful in intercepting Scuds, but others apparently failed to hit the Scud warheads.

The Arrow project, started in July 1989, is being funded by the Israeli government and the United States as part of its Strategic Defence Initiative.

The United States is picking up 80 per cent of the initial \$158 million in first phase development costs. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney has promised to underwrite 72 per cent of expenses for the second-phase development.

Israeli officials estimated the second-stage at costs \$200 million to \$300 million but foreign reports put the figure at \$340 million.

The Arrow is not been expected to be deployed before 1995.

advisers or representatives of theirs, especially those from the PLO. And both the Syrians and the Palestinians are apprehensive about Washington because of the presence of a strong Israeli lobby and the pro-Israeli congress there.

In Arab-Israeli talks, only questions of form, and no issues of substance have come up so far. Mr. Hussein, leader of the Palestinian steering committee, said there has been talk about halting the building of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, but no progress has been achieved so far. "The Israelis have rejected a proposal for halting settlements in exchange for ending the Arab economic boycott against Israel," he said.

"But the issue has to be on top of the agenda, when agenda is agreed," he added. "The fundamental issues are yet to be discussed. I hope the question of handshakes is over and done with."

In their first meeting yesterday, the Jordanians and the Palestinians got to know each other after Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, the head of the Palestinian side, asked the Israeli members of the delegation to introduce themselves. They did and during the half-hour coffee break afterwards, they shook hands with their counterparts and exchanged smiles. Cameras took pictures of the historic encounter.

Apart from Dr. Majali, the Jordanian team to Sunday's talks included Awad Khalidi, Walid

Khaldi, Mohammad Adwan, and Major General Abdul Hafez Murir. The Palestinian side, headed by Dr. Abdul Shafi, comprised Mamdouh Al Iker, Ghassan Khatib, Nabil Qassis and Freih Abu Medcin.

The Israeli delegation was headed by Mr. Rubenstein and included Zahnan Shoval, Dany Roicheld, Nadaf Ouner, Youssef Taraya and Youssef Anniblood.

Syria

(Continued from page 1)

discuss their next steps in the peace process.

Earlier Sunday, Syrian Foreign Ministry official Zohair Jennane said his delegation would refuse to discuss Israel's demands to transfer the venue.

"Our delegation came to Madrid fully empowered to participate in the conference and ensuring negotiations on the substantive issues relating to peace. It will concentrate meetings in Madrid on these issues only, Mr. Jennane said.

Syria also wants an active U.S. Soviet role in any further talks, while Israel objects to this. Lebanon is following the lead of Syria, the main broker in Lebanon.

U.S. officials worked Sunday to keep the conference going. Edward P. Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for the Near East, was summoned Sunday to Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa's hotel suite.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Le Roi de Patagonie
19:00	News in French
19:15	Weekly Sports Magazine
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Hey Dad
21:10	The Midas Touch
22:00	News in English
22:30	Gabrielle Fire
PRAYER TIMES	
06:32	Fajr
07:57	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:19	Dhuhr
14:20	Asr
16:47	Maghrib
18:06	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifich Tel. 510740	
Annunciation of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634390	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622566	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 19, Aqaba 29. Humidity readings: Amman 75, per cent, Aqaba 23 per cent.	Dr. Khassab Al Jassab..... (—) Khalifeh pharmacy..... 965417
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre..... 637111	Civil Defence Department..... 661111
Civil Defence Department..... 661111	Rescue..... 630341
Rescue..... 630341	Civil Defence Emergency..... 199
Civil Defence Emergency..... 199	Rescue Police..... 192, 61111, 637777
Fire Brigade..... 821228	Blood Bank..... 775121
Highway Police..... 843402	Truffe Police..... 896390
Public Security Department..... 630221	Hotel Complaints..... 605800
Police Complaints..... 661176	Water and Sewerage..... 871467
Complaints..... 871467	Amman Municipality..... 787111
Complaints..... 787111	Telephone Information..... 121
Overseas Calls..... 010230	Central Amman Telephone..... 623101
Repairs..... 623101	Abdull Telephone Repairs..... 661101
HOSPITALS	AMMAN:
Jordan Television..... 773111	Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn..... 644281/6
Radio Jordan..... 774111	Al-Bash Maternity, J. Amn..... 644241/2
Water Authority..... 680100	Jabal Amman Maternity..... 642362
Jordan Electricity Authority..... 815615	Malhas, J. Amman..... 636140
Electric Power..... 636381	Palestine, Shamsi..... 664171/4
Company..... 636381	Shamsi Hospital..... 669131
RJ Flight Information..... 08-53200	University Hospital..... 667227/9
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport..... 08-53200	Al-Mushtaq, Abdali..... 666127/37
FOR THE TRAVELLER	Al-Ahli, Abdali..... 664646/6
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	Al-Mishal, Abdali..... 771013
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh..... 771117/6
ARRIVALS	Army, Marika..... 891611/5
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	Queen Alia Hospital..... 602240/50
06:00 Samra (RJ)	Amal Hospital..... 674159
09:00 Damascus (RJ)	
09:15 Riyadh (RJ)	
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)	
09:45 Dhahran (RJ)	
09:50 Larnaca (RJ)	
10:00 Beirut (RJ)	
10:15 Beirut (RJ)	
10:30 Bangkok (RJ)	
10:45 Cairo (RJ)	
11:00 Beirut (RJ)	
11:15 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)	
11:30 Yerevan (RJ)	
11:45 Beirut (RJ)	
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MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in the per kg.	
Apple..... 600/500	
Banana (Mikammar)..... 530/450	
Banana..... 530/450	
Beans..... 600/500	
Cabbage..... 170/120	
Cauliflower..... 200/180	
Cucumbers (large)..... 150/100	
Cucumbers (small)..... 300/200	
Eggplant..... 270/180	
Garlic..... 300/200	
Grapes..... 800/600	
Guava..... 500/400	
Lemon..... 200/150	
Marrow (large)..... 150/100	
Marrow (small)..... 300/200	
Onion..... 600/500	
Onion (dry)..... 100/120	
Pepper (red)..... 300/200	
Pepper (green)..... 450/400	
Potato..... 300/250	
Spinach..... 600/500	
Sweet melon..... 200/150	
Tomatoes..... 700/500	
Watermelon..... 150/100	

Mohammad's Army trial to resume today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The trial of the Mohammad's Army clandestine group by the State Security Court is scheduled to resume today with military judge Yousef Al Faouri presiding.

The last court session was held last Thursday during which a number of the 18-member group accused of conducting terrorist activities gave their testimonies regarding the weapons found at their homes.

Some of the accused admitted that their earlier statements given to the police during interrogation were only partly correct, except for 19-year-old Mustafa Suleiman who gave full confession about his involvement in the group's operations.

Mr. Suleiman said that he was involved in some of these operations as far back as the middle of last year.

Mr. Suleiman said that he was trained in the manufacture of molotov bombs and arms by Nabil Abu Harith, his neighbour who had returned from Afghanistan.

He also admitted that he had accompanied one of the accused, Fuad Daaneh, when he planted an explosive in a car belonging to an army officer.



SCHOLARLY DONATION — The Embassy of India in Amman Sunday presented a number of books and specialised references in scientific fields as a gift to the University of Jordan. The books were presented by Ambassador K. Gajendra Singh to university president Fawzi Gharalbeh in a special ceremony at the university library. The books included 257 titles in engineering, agricultural, cultural and historical fields. The books were written mostly by Indian authors having

long teaching experience at Indian and foreign universities. Accepting the books, Mr. Gharaibeh appreciated the gesture and hoped for greater cooperation between the educational institutions of India and Jordan. The books were donated under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) scheme, which was launched in 1964 and covers over 70 countries from Asia, Africa, Latin America and some European countries.

Economic restructuring programme will not result in higher fuel prices, government officials say

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government is not planning to increase fuel prices as part of an economic restructuring programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), a senior government source said Sunday.

"We have decided that fuel prices will not be increased, but other measures are being contemplated," the source told the Jordan Times. "These measures will be announced soon."

Officials have said that regardless of the IMF "recommendations" included in the restructuring programme, the government itself felt that there is a need to overhaul the entire system of subsidies and prices as well as other market factors which could be influenced by government actions.

"There are many situations in Jordan where the approach is lopsided and these have to

be corrected," said a senior official.

The official, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, said the government was soon expected to announce rises in prices of "some commodities" but did not give details. It was believed that the items covered under the measures will mostly include imported products.

The disclosure that the government is not planning to increase fuel prices sets to rest widespread apprehension based on the argument that the domino effect of fuel price hikes will lead to increase in the cost of living.

Available details of a recent round of discussions between the government and an IMF/World Bank delegation had indicated that fuel prices could be targeted for increase.

Economists say that under a complex system based on a predetermined range of prices of all types of oil, the government extends an indirect form

of subsidy for fuel.

"It is very difficult to determine the actual amount of subsidies for fuel since it depends on the actual market prices of oil," said one economist who closely follows the Kingdom's energy policy.

"Low prices of one type of imported oil marketed at a higher price makes up for the difference in revenues from another type with higher prices but sold at lower prices," he explained. "The government steps in to compensate for further differences."

In view of the relative stability of oil prices, the volume of present government subsidies for fuel "could not be very high," he added.

Jordan is getting almost all of its oil needs from Iraq under an exemption granted to the Kingdom from the international embargo imposed on that country for its invasion of Kuwait last year. The exemption was granted by the United Nations Sanctions Committee,

which monitors the embargo on Iraq.

No money is changing hands in the Jordanian import of Iraqi oil since Baghdad is repaying its debts to Amman incurred during the 1980-81 Iran-Iraq war.

Other "adjustments" envisaged by the government to reduce the fiscal budget deficit include higher tariffs for long distance calls "for certain countries," and a "revised" system for water and electricity charges, according to one of the sources.

The revisions will take into full consideration a reasonable level of monthly consumption of an average family," said the source. "Consumptions above this level will be categorised into slabs and higher charges will be levied accordingly."

"It is one way for ensuring that the low-income group whose consumption is traditionally of an average level, not affected by the hikes," he explained.

Union members assail federation for failing to address worker's grievances

By Odeh Odeh

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Members of 17 labour unions in Jordan have been complaining about the failure of the Central Council of the Federation of Labour Unions in Jordan to hold meetings over the past three months to discuss issues of concern to the labour movement in the country.

In its 37-year history, the labour movement has not failed to hold regular weekly meetings to discuss issues which they said are now accumulating due to the rising unemployment.

The return of tens of thousands of workers from Kuwait and the Gulf area, the decline in the wages of work-

ers, the arbitrary dismissals of workers by employers and the soaring cost of living are among the pressing issues which require debates and solutions, labour union member said.

According to Mazen Ma'aita, a member of the 94-member Central Council, the failure to hold meetings over the past three months is due to the fact that Central Committee members have been busy preparing for union elections. He admitted, however, that a great deal of the problems related to labour, are outstanding and that many of the cases have been raised at the State Industrial Court.

Sudki Fugaha, another Central Council member, attributed the failure to hold the regular meetings to disputes

among the Central Council members about opening the door for more workers to acquire membership. Mr. Fugaha said that disputes among the council members led to the intervention of the former labour minister, which further delayed the meetings.

Moussa Qweider, one of the federation founders and member since 1954, said that he believed the Central Council did not convene because some of its members were trying to escape dealing with pressing issues which have been accumulating. The absence of the Central Council meetings deals a devastating blow to the labour movement in the Kingdom, he added.

But according to Akram Abu Zeineh, another Central Council member, the failure to

convene the regular meetings was due to the numerous difficulties facing the labour movement like the poor wages and social security benefits. He said that the absence of the Central Council from the scene opened the door to employers to act arbitrarily against the workers, thus further weakening the labour movement.

Wasef Imrani, another Central Council member, accused the federation president, Khalil Abu Khorma, of shortcomings and failing to shoulder the responsibility of helping workers.

But Mr. Khorma replied by saying that he was abroad most of the past three months and had wished his deputy, Haidar Rashid, held the regular meetings in his absence.

Zarqa mayor admits city suffering from environmental, organisational problems

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa Mayor Yasser Al Omari Saturday affirmed that Zarqa City suffers from organisational and environmental problems.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Omari said that of the city's 66,000 square metres area, 30,000 square metres were built on state-owned land without planning or organisation.

He called on the government to assess the value of state-owned lands used by citizens and make citizens pay its value over monthly instalments in accordance with

their financial conditions.

"Zarqa municipality is suffering the scarcity of financial resources," Mr. Omari said.

He added that the municipality's debts have reached JD 1.5 million.

He called on the concerned authorities to support the municipality's fund to enable it to carry out projects needed by citizens in the city.

The municipality currently needs 500 cleaning workers, he said. Mr. Omari added that priority in hiring the workers will be given to inhabitants of the city.

Environmentalists call for legislation to stem the spread of pollution

AMMAN (Petra) — A weeklong symposium for media representatives organised by the Jordan Society for Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCPEP), in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Information Ministry, concluded Sunday with a call for enacting new legislation on the environment and standard specification for environmental

pollutions. Participants came up with a number of recommendations designed to promote environmental awareness and to fight pollution. The symposium called for setting up a higher committee "to be entrusted with monitoring the environmental situation in Jordan. It stressed the importance of giving media people access to information from its sources in order to ensure accuracy and credibility of information. The participants also called for assigning more space in the various media and communication channels to enhance public participation in environmental issues and promote awareness about environmental concerns.

Participants stressed the importance of training and preparing information cadres specialised in environment and reiterated the importance of studying the possibility of widening the scope of work of the Developmental Information Department to cover environmental issues. They also suggested that the name of this body be revised to the Developmental and Environmental Information Department.

The symposium also called for strengthening cooperation and coordination between information people and environmentalists and stressed the need for writers to contribute essays, articles and features to the JSCPEP magazine.

Participants discussed over ten working papers on the environment. Taking part in the symposium were 40 journalists and media representatives.

Ministry to help repair damage from storms

KARAK (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzak Tubeisbat Sunday announced that his ministry has issued instructions to its departments in the provinces to offer technical assistance to the local municipal and village councils to help with the repair work in areas hit by the storms of the last winter seasons.

The government had earlier announced the allocation of JD1 million for repairing roads, bridges, culverts and other facilities following the stormy rains which flooded vast areas and caused extensive damage to communications and crops.

The ministry has also finalised the drafting of a new law which among other things provides for salary increases of heads of municipal councils and allocations for each municipal and village council drawn from a JD 3 million budget approved by the Council of Ministers.

The ministry is now directing its attention towards modernising and upgrading regulations and laws governing the work of local councils and joint services councils, the minister said.

He said his current tour of southern regions was aimed at consulting with the heads of these councils to identify their problems to issuing laws and regulations.

Dr. Tubeisbat last week said that out of the JD 3 million budget for the municipal councils, JD 1.912 million will go to the municipal councils and JD 650,000 will benefit the village councils. The JD 3 million had been earmarked to help local councils carry out various services and projects for local residents.

An addition, JD 1.575 million will be earmarked to help the local councils pay for property and real estate they appropriated in the past few years for public use.

The Kingdom has 173 municipal councils and 370 villages councils, according to the ministry.

CBJ reviewing financial laws; urges banks to merge

Deposit guarantee institution under study

AMMAN (Petra) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) is currently seeking to establish an institution to guarantee deposits in Jordanian banks instead of using government funds as a guarantee for that matter, according to CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi.

Dr. Nabulsi also said that the CBJ was re-examining Jordanian banking laws and financial legislation in order to modernise them or replace them with new legislation that can cater to the new developments in the local and international banking and economic fields.

In a lecture delivered to the participants in a training seminar organised by the Arab Institute for Banking Studies in Amman, Dr. Nabulsi said that the CBJ has been encouraging banks to merge and financial companies to transform themselves into banks. At the same time, the CBJ has been offering technical assistance to firms wanting to achieve that goal.

Dr. Nabulsi said that mergers can enlarge the capital and open the way for further investments in Jordanian development projects.

The CBJ's current drive to



Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi

modernise banking operations in Jordan in mainly aimed at providing protection to public deposits and enabling financial institutions and banks to increase their investments in the country, Dr.

He referred to the weakness of the Jordanian banking system in the early 1980s and said that it can be attributed to the stagnant Jordanian economy along with

those of the neighbouring Arab countries, and also due to the presence of a large number of banks in the country.

It is imperative that banks merge so that they can survive present difficulties, Dr. Nabulsi added. Mergers, he said, of banks a greater margin of operations and increases their profits.

In 1989, the CBJ had decided to merge the now dissolved P Bank with the Jordan C Bank, which was running difficulties, but later decided to merge the Jordan Gulf Bank with the Al Mashrek Bank, which headquarters in Beirut had been destroyed.

"With reference to CBJ's future plans, Dr. Nabulsi said that he was hoping to achieve further mergers among Jordanian banks and to transform a number of them into institutions for offering loans for investments.

The training seminar, which started Saturday, will continue until Nov. 6. It is attended by managers and senior executives in Jordanian banks and financial institutions. Among the topics for discussion is the concept of dealing with banking crisis.

Royal decree endorses law changing fees

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal decree has been issued endorsing the regulation on collection of nationality fees, which was recently approved by the cabinet.

Under the regulation, the Civil Registration and Passport Department in Jordan and the Jordanian embassies and consulates abroad will collect the following fees from people applying to get Jordanian nationality or abandon it:

— JD 20 for applying to acquire Jordanian nationality in accordance with Article 4 of the law, — JD 40 for applying to acquire Jordanian nationality under Article 5 of the law, — JD 50 for applying to get Jordanian nationality in accordance with Article 12 of the law, — JD 50 for applying to relinquish Jordanian nationality under Article 16 of the law, — JD 100 for applying to relinquish the Jordanian nationality under Articles 15 and 17.

— JD 60 for applying to obtain Jordanian nationality under Article 4 of the law, — JD 200 for applying for Jordanian nationality under Article 5 of the law, — JD 200 for applying for the restoration of Jordanian nationality by those who relinquished it earlier as set out under Article 17 of the law, — JD 100 from an Arab woman married to a Jordanian upon applying to get Jordanian

nationality under article 8 of law, — JD 200 for foreign women married to Jordanians upon applying to get Jordanian nationality under Article 8 of the law, — JD 200 from people wishing to get a nationality certificate under Article 12 of the law.

The new regulation, which took effect as of Nov. 2, came and superseded regulation No. 10 of 1978 on nationality fees.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Iraqi art exhibition at the Phoenix Gallery of Art and Culture, Gardens Street.

★ A special season of antique lithographs, engravings, folio illustrations and maps, 18th & 19th century prints of Palestine, Jordan — the Mideast as well as orientalist scenes at the Gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter. Continental.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
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Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

The West can make or break communism

China is the only remaining strong bastion of communism in the world. As long as it remains strong and kicking, there will always be fears that the defunct ideology can make a comeback. As a matter of fact there were attempts to liquidate this last fortress of communism when a revolt took place in Tiananmen Square in Peking in the summer of 1989. The same forces that were behind the Chinese eruption were also behind the Soviet elements that tried the aborted coup against the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and ushered in an entirely new era in the Soviet Union. No doubt such anti-communist forces will zero in on China for fear that it may still serve as a springboard for the revival of communism in the world.

China can be expected to offer stiff resistance to all efforts that aim to introduce Western-style democracy. In many ways the country's stage of development, both material and intellectual, can be characterised as belonging to the Soviet era, perhaps that of the late leader Nikita Khrushchev. In other words, the Chinese people have not yet reached the level of politicisation and

economic development that is active and deep enough to assure the success of pluralistic democracy. What happened in Moscow may succeed in Peking some two decades ahead, but not before. Meanwhile, China will have all the time it needs to modernise its ideology in order to thwart any future designs on it. This respite may be ample enough, especially if China can succeed in polarising the developing world under its wings as the only spokesman for the underdog, just as the Soviet Union succeeded in doing so during the last four decades. In theory, this may appear possible especially if the West alienates the poor countries of the world both economically and politically. If, on the other hand, the new international order that Washington is spearheading across the surface of the globe proves to be favourable to a form of neo-colonialism, then China's efforts to polarise the weaker countries of the world would be in vain. According to this worst scenario, China would end up being a lonely aging lion whose time and relevancy had gone for ever.

The other smaller communist posts like Cuba and North Korea will have only a marginal effect on the international course of communism. They are at best mere pawns in a high stake political game. Such probable scenarios may be true as long as the economies of the Western countries remain robust and expanding. The minute the Western countries begin to experience deeper and steeper recessions, on even depressions, the stage may become set again for a comeback for socialism and even communism. After all, that is how communism had started in the first place. Who can tell how the global economy would develop in the next few decades? Will it continue to expand and prosper or would it slump back into disarray, unemployment and severe socio-economic dislocations?

So the final chapter has yet to be written on the demise or resurrection of communism. This last chapter will be written by the leaders of the strong countries of the world, by how they treat themselves and their respective peoples and how they treat the rest of humanity.

Parallel priorities

JORDAN'S ATTENTION during the last four days was rightly focused on the opening of the Madrid peace conference. All Jordanians, including the government, were glued to their TV sets closely following speeches, rebuttals and press conferences. This is understandable since the concern of every Jordanian remains the attainment of peace and the restoration of Arab rights and occupied land.

On Saturday, Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber had to take a break from Madrid and rush to Brussels to attend to another of Jordan's urgent concerns, the foreign debt problem. Many people, of course, pin hope on the Madrid conference to bring peace and peace, in turn, bringing funds. But this may be a far shot; peace will take time to materialise and funds may take longer to arrive. Meanwhile, the country has to grapple with debt, unemployment, lack of housing, food imports, lack of water, maintenance of its infrastructure, education, health, and last but certainly not the least democracy.

It is the belief of many people in this country that our search for peace should not be an impediment to the search for urgent, short term and long term, solutions for our domestic problems. Although many people are rightly placing great hopes on the peace process, one should not forget that if, God forbid, peace efforts failed all other national ailments will immediately surface and pose greater challenges to us and our future.

On the economic and financial front, for example, the country is required by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), on behalf of the creditors, to make structural adjustments in the economy. These adjustments are long overdue. Debt or no debt, Jordan is in dire need of an economic perestroika. Subsidies, for one, must be thought over. Privatisation, long on the agenda of government, should be enacted. Import/export restrictions should be eased. Government bureaucracy must be scaled down. In short we need to deregulate.

Jordan cannot tackle its problems one at a time. If we did so it will take us hundreds of years to get rid of only part of these problems. While our fellow countrymen are working hard at Madrid in pursuit of regional peace, other teams should be working as hard here at home to tackle our domestic issues. If we could field a team of fine Jordanian men who could handle our most difficult concern at Madrid we surely can form similar teams at home who could deal with our other problems as effectively. In our euphoria for peace we should create within our society equal euphoria for other issues.

There is no denying that peace will usher in many positive developments. But peace has eluded us for a long time, and although indications of a breakthrough are positive, we cannot and should not sit and wait for it to catch us unaware. We must act now.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

FOLLOWING the diplomatic, political and informational defeat dealt to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir over the past few days in Madrid, the head of the Jewish state chose to make up for such big loss by launching a fresh act of aggression on areas in southern Lebanon, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. The paper said Mr. Shamir resorted to such an act with the hope of creating complications for the negotiators in Madrid and provoke the Arab delegates into walking out of the conference room in protest against Israel's continued barbaric measures. The attack on Lebanon is clearly one more facet of the Jewish state's aggressive nature and its desire to undermine the peace process, said the paper. It said that the fresh aggression in southern Lebanon could be the introduction to further acts and could create dangerous situations that might sabotage the whole peace process altogether. For this reason, added the daily, the United States and the Soviet Union, co-sponsors of the current Madrid peace parity, should take a firm stand against Israel, preventing its extremist leaders from having further dangerous adventures that are obviously detrimental to the prospects of peace. If the Israelis get away with such atrocities, they could be tempted to commit more barbaric actions in the occupied Palestinian lands and in the holy places so that to seriously provoke the whole Arab Nation into abandoning the quest for genuine peace, the paper warned. It said that by committing the fresh acts of aggression in Lebanon, Israel is throwing down the gauntlet in defiance of the two superpowers which are co-sponsoring the peace conference. The world community, the paper added, must not allow Mr. Shamir to escape the implementation of the international legitimacy.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Sunday directed attention to the victims of the mining industry in Jordan, citing the tragic death of five lorry drivers who were buried alive at the phosphate mine of Hama in southern Jordan last month. Once the five drivers' funeral was over everything returned to normal at the mine, with the Phosphate Mines Company retraining from taking a single step to save the rest of the drivers, workers and miners tragic incident, in the future, according to Nazhi. The writer said that if things are left as they are and the company does not take any measure to address the situation, more and more people are bound to fall and meet a tragic end. He said that there are numerous examples about previous hands or feet being amputated or causing the loss of workers sight or hearing. The company, he demanded, should take measures to deal with all occupational hazards facing the miners and other workers affiliated to the phosphate mining industry so as to protect precious lives and to stop showing increasing desire to extract the largest possible quantities of phosphate rock without giving due regard to human life. The writer demanded that sufficient guarantees be offered by the company to the workers and provision be made for their families.

Americans should know what Israel spends U.S. aid on

The following is a letter addressed to members of the U.S. Congress and published in the Paris-based 'Israel and Palestine Political Report' on Oct. 9.

OUT of our deep concern for the fate of our country, we—a group of Jewish Israeli citizens—feel that the time has come to address you. Since its founding, our country has been at war with its neighbours. In its isolated position and burdened with huge military expenses, it could maintain itself only thanks to foreign aid, which in the last two decades has been generously provided by the United States. In fact, due to your willingness to provide that aid to our country, Israel has become the largest recipient per capita of U.S. aid.

By virtue of this policy towards Israel, the U.S. has assumed a considerable responsibility. It is with American money that the government of Israel can pursue its policies, which regrettably include the policy of gradually annexing the occupied territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Such annexation is effected by setting up new settlements and creating an expanding Jewish presence in those territories. With American money, the government is able to offer Jewish settlers, native-born or newly arrived Israeli Jews, extremely generous subsidies, amounting practically to free housing, as well as other benefits. At the same time, inside Israel proper, the shortage of affordable houses for young couples and new immigrants has reached alarming proportions. Such a policy inevitably entails gross violation of the human rights of the indigenous Palestinian population of the occupied territories, whose land is expropriated so that new Jewish settlements may be established. Indeed, this policy of de facto annexation of the occupied territories lies at the root of Israel's disregard of universal declarations of human rights insofar as these territories are concerned.

All this is done openly, with the knowledge of the entire Israeli population. The United States cannot shrug off a degree

of responsibility for the way its money is used. Against the wishes of at least half of Israel's own citizens, the government maintains a policy which is detrimental to the chances for peace in our region. It can afford to do so only thanks to the continued flow of unconditional American aid. Indeed, peace initiatives—such as the one presently undertaken by Secretary of State Baker—stand no chance of success as long as the Shamir government persists in its unrealistic and irresponsible "Greater Israel" policy. This policy is directly responsible now for the daily hardships caused by a violent conflict which is being unnecessarily perpetuated, at a time when, at long last, there seems to exist a real chance to bring it to an end and start a process aimed at achieving peace.

Needless to add that with the elimination of the chances for peace, the danger of another war becomes imminent.

As you know, an Israeli request will be brought before you in September of this year for \$10 billion in loan guarantees, for the

purpose of absorbing the Soviet and Ethiopian immigrants in Israel. Those immigrants are, indeed in great and urgent need of help. They were brought to Israel by the government and the Jewish Agency, which exerted all their influence to prevent the Soviet Jewish emigrants from going to any other country. But while directing them towards Israel, no adequate measures were taken to ensure their proper reception, and many of them are facing exposure to hardship and poverty. Supporting these immigrants is a worthy humanitarian cause; they certainly deserve a decent life in their new homeland. But this cannot be achieved in a country torn by conflict, where the daily life of everybody is becoming increasingly insecure.

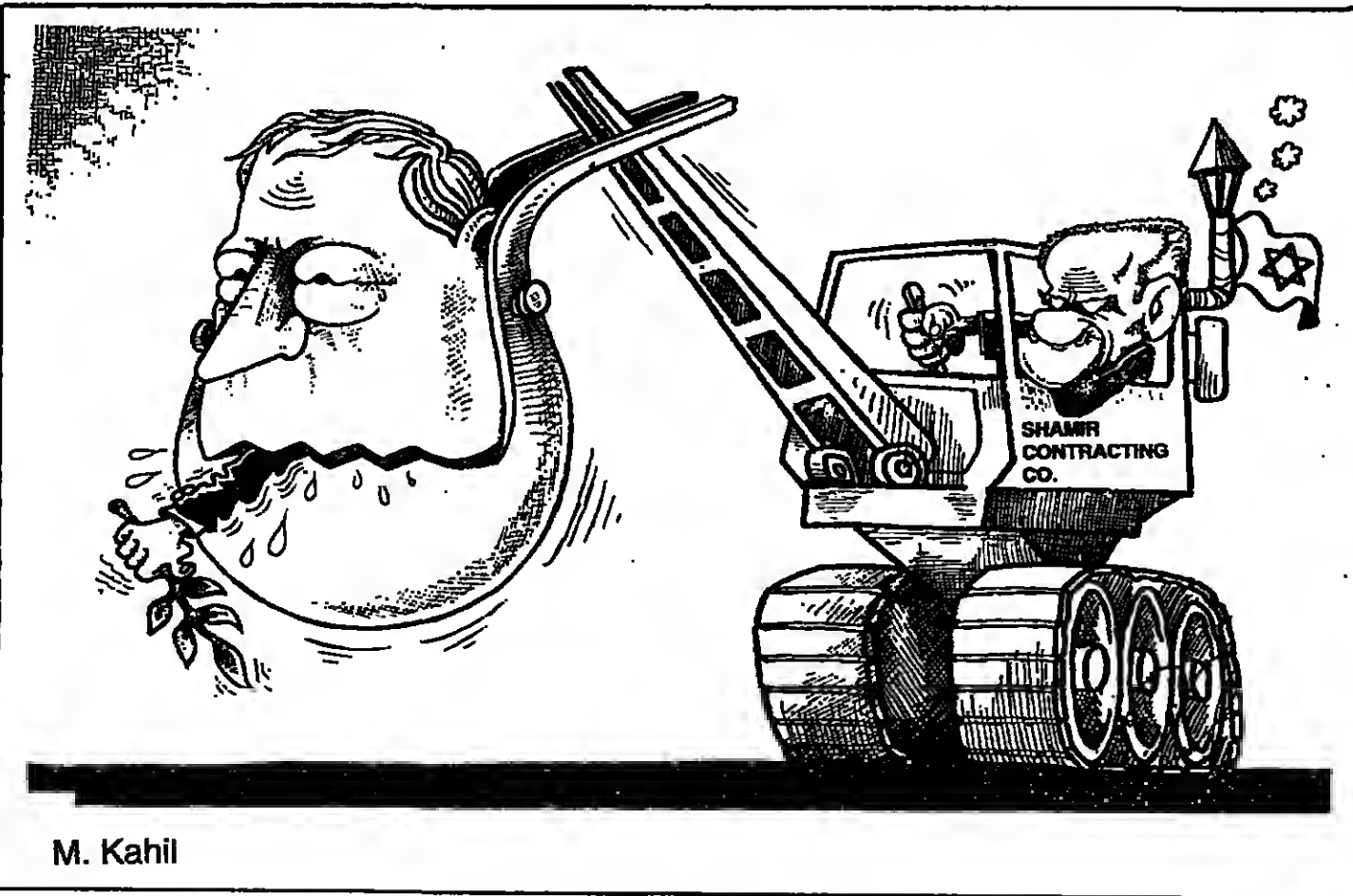
On you, members of the U.S. Congress, rests a tremendous responsibility. It is within your power to make sure that your willingness, of which we have no doubt, to extend humanitarian aid to these immigrants not be turned against the principle of "land for peace," which is the

cornerstone of the administration's peace initiative, and with which we are in full agreement. The loan guarantees requested by Israel should therefore be made conditional upon the Israeli government's acceptance of that principle. Such acceptance should be manifested by an immediate cessation of all settlement activities, namely, setting up new settlements or expanding existing ones, within the occupied territories. Unless this condition is met by the Israeli government, you could never be sure that part of the money given for the absorption of immigrants would not in fact be used to accelerate the de facto annexation of territories subject to negotiations.

We, like many other Israelis who deep in their hearts share your view, would regard the adop-

tion of such a measure on your part as the greatest service the United States could render Israel at the present moment.

Mattityahu Peled, Major General (Ret), professor of Arab literature, Yossi Amichai, author and professor of literature, Hayim Bar-Am, journalist, Benjamin Beit Hallahmi, author, member of New Outlook Editorial Board, Avishai Ehrlich, professor of sociology, David Hammon, editor, Itan Aher, Adam Keller, editor, the Other Israel, Peter Lemish, professor of political education, Yael Lottan, author and literary critic, Uri Maor, professor of physics, Rubama Marton, M.D., Yehuda Meizer, professor of philosophy, publisher, Gideon Spiro, journalist, Sasha Wieman professor of sociology.



M. Kahil

Mideast tricks or treaties?

A secret plan to show that a peace process can work

By Leslie M. Gelb

The following article appeared in the New York Times of Oct. 30. It just doesn't seem possible that President Bush and Secretary of State Baker will wander into the historic Mideast peace conference without a supersecret game plan. Too much can go wrong too quickly with them left holding the bag of blame. The whole initiative could capsize in six months if Washington simply sat back and waited for the right conditions to ripen.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker, whatever they are telling the world to lower expectations, must have a plan. And given their preoccupation with growing Syrian military power, it is likely to be aimed principally at cooling the one conflict that could spark a new Mideast war—the hatred between Israel and Syria. The plan that fits the pattern of Bush-Baker thinking would call for three small steps to show quick results with short of peace:

— A freeze on new Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, brought about by an enticing collage of carrots and sticks. The goal here is to prove to all early on that the process can

work.

— A deal for limited Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories, with the amount of self-rule to be set by how much Israelis will swallow in one gulp. The more autonomy the better to help local Palestinian leaders build a power base independent of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

— An Israeli-Syrian territorial agreement on the Golan Heights and/or in Lebanon. This makes it easier for the Palestinians to make compromises on autonomy, and clears the way for Damascus to join regional talks on arms and economic development—areas of great importance to Israel and the U.S.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker would not want to show their hand before January or February. Acting too soon would relieve all the parties from coming forward with credible proposals of their own and put the full burden of success or failure on the U.S. But the window of opportunity cannot stay open beyond the summer, when election campaigns begin in Israel and the U.S.

Mr. Bush has special worries

here. If he ends up in a tight presidential race, the Jewish vote could become very important in big states. So come fall, he must be long finished with whatever Israeli arm-twisting he has to do.

His hope, however, would be to make a freeze on settlements so attractive to Israel that little arm-twisting is necessary. He will not ask Israel to stop expanding existing settlements, just to suspend building new ones. And he will call on Arabs to reciprocate by suspending the trade boycott and the Palestinian uprising.

He would sweeten the pot further for Israel with a monster package of loan guarantees to help Soviet immigrants. That would consist of \$10 billion in guarantees from the U.S. and perhaps another \$10 billion from the Germans, Japanese and others. Prime Minister Shamir will not find it easy to reject this bundle when he thinks about his own elections.

Nor should Palestinians and Israelis find step two, autonomy deal, to be beyond their reach. The could agree quickly on transforming a host of governmental functions to the Palestinians. The tricky parts will include deciding who can run in local Palestinian

elections, and what the residual policing authority of the Israeli military will be.

Steps one and two mainly help Israelis and Palestinians, the fanatics aside. Step three, diffusing Israeli-Syrian tensions, takes care of U.S. strategic interests in reducing the risks of Mideast war and curtailing the proliferation of nuclear and chemical arms and long-range missiles.

Israel will not consider returning the Golan Heights to Syria for many years. And Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker will not ask for the impossible. Instead, the U.S. will look for gestures. One might be to take a silver of the heights and put it under U.S. control. Another might be to arrange partial withdrawals of Syrian and Israeli forces from Lebanon as local militias are disarmed.

What is most attractive about the likely U.S. plan is that it requires neither political miracles nor serious military risks. Neither President Assad of Syria nor Mr. Shamir has to reverse basic policies. This plan would not trick the parties into dangerous illusions of peace, but convince all but the fanatics that a peace process just might work.

LETTERS

Where is JTV?

To the Editor:

It is not the first time and it will not be the last that we tune to other TV stations to watch news.

During the Madrid conference Jordan Television broadcast the speeches of the delegates live. And in Jordan, it interviewed analysts after every speech; when that was over, it would close down. Viewers would then tune to other TV stations to watch press conferences live and to see these TV reporters briefing and commenting.

Why did not Jordan TV broadcast these press conferences live and where were JTV reporters at that time?

Why should Jordanians wait until the eight o'clock news to see the press conferences?

All the interviews JTV reporters did were with the Jordanian and the Palestinian side, what about the other, delegates, the Soviets, the Americans, the Europeans, the Syrians, the Lebanese and even the Israelis?

Friday, when all Jordanians sat down to watch the peace conference and after the delegates made their closing remarks, JTV chose to broadcast a horse jumping competition in Aqaba on both channels. Horse jumping is very nice and I have nothing against it, but they could have at least respected their audience and broadcast on one channel some press conference. They could have their reporters on stand-by at the end of the session and not at ten o'clock.

And what about the King's press conference? I assume that the satellite connection was made through JTV. Why did not JTV show that live, by interrupting their programmes on Thursday or, at least, on Friday morning? JTV interrupts the ten o'clock news to broadcast a football match!

JTV has proven that they are weak in programme selections, accusing the fundamentalists, of interfering with their selection. Thank God for the video.

Then they say that they want to improve the news. I have not seen any improvement. They still take their news from the agencies. They still do not know what freedom of press means. Their news have always been old news.

Soon I hope I'll say thank God for the CNN and advise JTV to close down their station, because that will be cheaper for everybody.

Rima Jumana

Grateful to a virtuoso

To the Editor:

The two piano recitals performed by the Greek pianist George Themeli at the Royal Cultural Centre On Oct. 28 and 29 were uniquely special. In the first place, Mr. Themeli has been for the past fifty years or so a pianist of international fame and secondly because the two programmes he performed reflected clearly that in spite of, or indeed because of, his life long visual loss he was endowed with an almost supernatural talent.

His superbly bold technique was most obvious in the breathtaking interpretations of the prestissimo of Beethoven's Waldstein and in the intricacies of Chopin's Scherzo and Scarlatti's Sonatas. Never during the performance could we detect the slightest hesitancy.

And, as the surviving contemporary of Rubinstein, Horowitz and Serkin, Mr. Themeli remains, and hopefully for many years, a master of the keyboard, whose visual loss unleashed a tremendous musical talent.

Dr. Cameron Nabeel, Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Let's stop being lazy!

By Sana Atiyeh

IN the morning of the opening of the Madrid peace conference, Wednesday, the entire region — with its people and leaders — were most probably concentrating on the historic event. For the first time we witnessed an official gathering of foes sitting at the same table to initiate a dialogue for a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

There is no doubt that His Majesty King Hussein, who had been advocating peaceful negotiations for decades, had his mind busy with the event. At what was surprising was that he still had the time to worry about a little girl whose medicine was lost or delayed in a mail from the United States, and a school which was lacking proper ventilation. The king called a radio phone-in programme after hearing complaints that the child's medicine was delayed in the mail and that school children were complaining of bad ventilation in the already congested classrooms.

Imagine! The King had to all to make sure that daily details of our everyday lives were properly handled. With all the local and international political issues that His Majesty is busy with, and all the problems that have to be solved which will determine our destiny as a people and a nation, there was

still need for him to make sure that simple matters were worked out.

Shame on us. I don't understand how we could be so inefficient and put ourselves in such a position where our already-burdened King feels the necessity to interfere with matters that should not take his effort or time. Is it possible that our institutions cannot manage the details of our daily lives without being forced to do so?

Why don't things just work out the way they should with everybody doing his or her job properly? Why don't our government departments make sure that all the facilities and services to the people are available without having someone with prominence interject? Why does it need the King himself to inquire about snags in our postal system or schools?

The people concerned in these departments, be they the education, health or any other, just have to do their jobs properly by making sure that no one has room for complaints. The head of the schools department went on an inspection of schools when the King made his remarks over the airwaves. The head of the postal department took interest in the case of the delayed medicine after our leader inquired about it.

Things really should not work this way. If these officials

were doing their jobs as they should, His Majesty would not have had to make the phone call on such a critical day.

This also includes the private sector. King Hussein once made a similar call inquiring about baby milk formula. Isomil, which the agent stopped importing perhaps for business of financial reasons. Parents with babies allergic to cow milk formula know that Isomil is necessary as a substitute. But the local agent did not feel that this was good reason to warrant importing the milk. So our Monarch felt he had to ensure that the milk was available to the babies, and used his own time, effort and authority to bring in a large shipment of this baby milk.

It is high time we stopped being lazy and started working with our hearts and minds to produce a healthy and productive society. It is high time we make our own decisions and take our own initiatives that serve the people of this country. And it is high time to leave King Hussein to work out the broader political issues and not give him any reason to waste his time on matters that should be done properly in the first place. It is time we depend on ourselves and learn to be good human beings without having our leader remind us of our too-often missing humanity. It is time we stop being dependent.

هذا من اجل

The making of a historic speech

By Daoud Kuttab

MADRID — If anything, the speech of the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference represented the spirit of the intifada both in its style, content and in the manner in which the final draft was reached.

The Palestinian delegation and their friends from outside the conference halls worked hard to reach resolution on the best way to handle the drafting of its contents. Problems within the delegation and from within the PLO developed as to the language of speech. Some wanted it in Arabic so as to impress on the Arab nature of Palestine and with the aim of speaking to the Arab peoples and especially the Palestinians. Others wanted the opposite. That the language should be in English so as to reach the international community. After much debate it was resolved that it will be read in English with the provision

that a short introduction will be made in Arabic.

Differences also surfaced over the style. One draft was written by poet Mahmoud Darwish but it was impossible to keep the music and spirit of the language when translating it into English. Hanan Mikhail Ashrawi wrote a draft that is based on the human dimension and attempting to be open and not introspective. A mixture of the two drafts was attempted but that also was a bad mixture.

In the end it was agreed that the spirit and basic text of Mrs. Ashrawi will prevail and that additions can be made to it. The spirit of the intifada prevailed in the harmony that was reached during this mixture and the goings and comings between the various Palesti-

nian centres of power. It was not a one way fax line by any means. Just like the intifada leadership had developed both creativity and team work in the writing of the underground leadership in the first months of the intifada. Those leaflets addressed the needs of Palestinians under occupation without rhetoric and tough talk and with practical and creative ideas that reflect the grassroots nature of the people.

The Palestinian speech was not a governmental speech. It was a people's speech that reflected what Palestinians wanted without the need to talk over people heads and without using ideology to explain the pains and aspirations of the people. The difference between the writers of the leaflets and the writers of the

speech was that the writers of the speech had the relative freedom of the Spanish country and the ability to consult and work with others both politicians and experts without fear of reprisal or arrest or even killings.

Creativity was needed to deal with issues like the Palestinian relationship with the PLO. The Palestinian delegation didn't want to make provocative acts just for the sake of provocation. But the Palestinians didn't want at the same time to be censored or have their speech edited by anyone. They wanted the speech to reflect the pain, the pride and the aspirations of the Palestinian people.

By and large that has happened. Creativity and team work were the hallmarks of the

speech. In addition to Mrs. Ashrawi, Mr. Abdul Shafi, Mr. Nabil Shaat and Mr. Hussein were involved in one way or another in contributing to the speech. A senior member of the Palestinian delegation, Dr. Mamdouh Al Aker, a close confidant of both Mr. Hussein and Mrs. Ashrawi and a university mate of George Habash and some of the top Palestinian leaders, was a key figure in coordinating the various changes and translations and amendments. At times he would argue with the senior leaders and with members of the delegation with the purpose of reaching an acceptable compromise that kept in the spirit of Mrs. Ashrawi's original text with the various additions that other Palestinians wanted.

Baker

(Continued from page 1)

matters of procedure and modalities are to the involved parties as "very big issues" precisely because the parties are taking risks "in their own eyes and in the eyes of their public."

Predictably, the secretary refused to characterize the speeches given by the Arab and Israeli delegations at the opening session of the conference, but reiterated his disappointment at the parties for having "neglected the human dimension of the problem" — something Washington had expected, given the enormous publicity surrounding the opening ceremony.

"We said for weeks before the conference we expected the parties to come here to stake out their maximalist positions in advance of negotiations ... you should not expect the parties to come to a public forum like that and make unilateral concessions as indeed they didn't," Mr. Baker said.

Arafat

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Arafat displayed a map that he charted the boundaries of a "greater Israel" desired by Mr. Shamir. It included Jordan, Lebanon, a third of Syria, most of Iraq and half of Sinai.

Mr. Arafat said that the financial losses of Palestinians expelled from Kuwait due to widespread Palestinian support for Iraq during the Gulf war had amounted to \$12 billion.

More than 2,500 Palestinians have gone missing since the war ended, and 12,000 Palestinians and 2,000 other Arabs remain in Kuwaiti jails, Mr. Arafat said.

Dialogue

(Continued from page 1)

said. "So the sooner we put an end to the charade, the better."

Mr. Abu Sharif said the planned meeting among Arab negotiators was necessary to assess their positions "in view of (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir's outright rejection of United Nations resolutions."

Shamir — today's prime minister, yesterday's terrorist

By Jack Redden
Reuters

JERUSALEM — The British government once tried to hunt down Yitzhak Shamir. Now it is with him on the future of the Middle East.

The United States, which will talk to PLO chief Yasser Arafat because of his role in terrorism, gives Mr. Shamir's government \$3 billion a year in aid. Syrian Foreign Minister Fouad Al Sharaa waved an old "wanted" poster with the name of a 32-year-old Mr. Shamir the Madrid talks on day, saying "it was distributed because he was ... a terrorist."

But Mr. Shamir is far from being among world leaders in living a violent past — particularly in the Middle East. Syrian President Hafez Assad rose to power through coups and shed the blood of his fellow Syrians. The West politely ignores Mr. Assad's past, as it does with leaders of many countries which struggled against colonialism.

Mr. Shamir's record as one of triumvirate running the group own to the world as the "Stern gang" included actions which killed even other Jewish guerrillas. The group was born during

World War II, when Britain, which ruled Palestine, was fighting a life-or-death struggle with Nazi Germany and the Nazis were attempting to exterminate European Jewry.

The Stern Gang kept fighting Britain. Among its most sensational acts were the 1944 assassination of Lord Moyne, British minister of state for the Middle East, and the gunning down in 1948 of Swedish Count Bernadotte, United Nations peace mediator.

Mr. Shamir joined the Irgun underground soon after arriving in Palestine from Poland in 1935. The Irgun, already more extreme than the mainstream Jewish underground, split in 1940 over a proposal for a ceasefire with the British authorities.

Avraham Stern led the breakaway group and when he was killed by British police in 1942, the triumvirate that included Mr. Shamir took charge until after Israel was established in 1948. The group — officially called the Lehi or Herut Israel. Fighters for the Freedom of Israel — conducted assassinations and bombings against police stations, trains and government installations. In 1947 it mailed bombs to British politicians outside Palestine.

The group had a key role in the 1948 attack on the Arab village of



Yitzhak Shamir

Dier Yassin near Jerusalem, where at least 120 civilians, including women and children, were cut down.

Fear of massacres was a major factor in Arab villagers fleeing Jewish forces during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War — the start of a Palestinian refugee problem that remains unsolved more than four decades later.

Mr. Shamir has never regretted his past. In September he told an interviewer he was justified using "personal terror" against his enemies because his goal was just.

He is not the first former "terrorist" to lead Israel. He succeeded Menachem Begin, who led Irgun forces in the underground war against British authorities.

Mr. Begin, who had a 10,000 pound sterling price on his head, completed his transformation to world acceptance by sharing the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize with Egypt's Anwar Sadat for signing Israel's first peace treaty with an Arab country.



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Senna calls for drivers' safety views to be heard

ADELAIDE (R) — World champion Ayrton Senna called for drivers' views on safety to be heard and headed after winning Sunday's controversial Australian Grand Prix, reduced to 14 laps by torrential rain.

Senna was declared the winner after the race was abandoned with cars slithering and crashing all over the Adelaide Street Circuit, and immediately called on FISA (the International Motor Sport Association) to review its safety rules.

The newly-crowned triple world drivers' champion, who had warned before the start that the atrocious conditions were not safe, said drivers needed to be able to contribute to a neutral body to form new rules and regulations.

The McLaren driver said: "We have to establish a group which is neutral and balanced and which can help make for much safer conditions in the future."

"It is a difficult task and it will need a lot of time and a lot of work. But we need to do this for the sake of the sport's future."

Briton Nigel Mansell, driving a Williams, was classified second in the official result of the 14-lap race after he had crashed on his 16th lap. He left the circuit with an injured left ankle and suspected concussion.

Austrian Gerhard Berger in the second McLaren finished third to tie up the Constructors' World Championship for the Anglo-Japanese team for the fourth consecutive year.

Senna clinched the drivers' title when he finished second in the Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka two weeks ago.

Senna's views on looking at ways of avoiding any further dangerous races in heavy rain gained the support of Berger after the shortest race in Formula One history.

Berger said: "Something must be done. It is very frustrating to come and race here in 1989 in the terrible conditions then in the rain and now to have done it again."

Senna, who said his car at times "floated on the water — out of control" during the race, said: "We really have to think about this."

"We must go away from here and think of a new set of rules or a structure to give us stability and power in a balanced manner."

"There are some points we really must modify to get things sorted out or there just won't be a race. We need to set up some system."

"We need a new kind of policy from FISA where we can have some people in a group which is neutral to make things safer."

"We need to do it and we need to get the total support of the drivers and to get recognition from the organisers and the governing body."

Senna's win Sunday was a highlight achieved in conditions which made the race a lottery and which left the Australian public at the circuit both soaked and disappointed.

Italian veteran Riccardo Patrese, who finished fifth for Williams behind Brazilian Nelson Piquet in a Benetton and ahead of Italian Gianni Morbidelli, in a Ferrari, supported Senna's views.

He said: "I am very sorry for the Australian public and the organisers for how this race ended."

"I think the race should never have been started because these conditions were worse than in 1989 as then they waited a little longer for the rain to clear up. You can see what happens when you are made to race in these conditions."

Senna had consulted with officials before the race and warned that it was not safe to drive, but agreed to go ahead and "try to make a race of it."

Mansell said he may have broken a bone in his foot after crashing out of the Grand Prix.

"The car just snapped out of control and went into the wall," said Mansell, dazed and limping badly. His Williams crashed out of the race in the 16th lap shortly before it was halted.

"It spun time and time again and threw me straight into the wall. It was big hit," said the 38-year-old Briton.

Mansell had been running a close second behind Senna.

Asked if he thought the race should have been stopped sooner, Mansell said: "I can't say any more. You judge for yourself."

The Australian Grand Prix was a sad farewell to Formula One motor racing for Japan's Satoru Nakajima, whose last race ended with a spin in the atrocious conditions.

"In the past I have always been lucky in the rain. I didn't want to end my career on this note," said a dejected Nakajima, who lost control of his Tyrrell on the fifth lap in torrential rain.

It was disappointing, too, for the hundreds of Japanese fans and journalists who had turned out in Adelaide to say goodbye to their favourite son after he announced in July his intention to retire at the end of the season.

Ironically, it was on a similar rain-swept track here in 1989 that Nakajima gave his best Formula One performance, setting the fastest lap as he sliced his way through the field in his Lotus to finish fourth.

The dogged drive was typical of the approach to the sport which has won him a huge and devoted following in his home country during his 20-year career.

The 38-year-old driver has never finished higher than fourth in 71 Formula One races but his lack of international success in four years on the circuit — his best championship position was 11th in his first season — has tended to mask his immense contribution to motor racing at home.

A five-times winner of the Japanese Formula Two title in the early 1980s, Mr Japanese driver has done more to lift the profile of Formula One racing.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday attends the Youth City in Amman. (Photo by Abdullah Jordan Tennis Championship final at Al Hussein Ayyoub)

Rain stops Jordan Tennis final

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The final matches of the Jordan Tennis Championship were interrupted and later postponed due to heavy rains, with Hani Al Ali leading against his

all-time rival Imad Abu Hamda.

Ali won the first set of the match, which was attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor, 6-3 and was leading 1-0 (40-15) in the second set when the match was stopped.

In the other match, deciding

the third and fourth places, Ihab Shehadeh surprised Laith Al Azzouni and won the first set 6-2. Azzouni was leading 4-3 in the second set when the match was stopped.

The matches are due to be concluded Monday.

Man. United shows champion qualities in return to the top

LONDON (R) — Manchester United showed some of the spirit and determination they will need if they are to win the English soccer championship for the first time in 25 years.

After being knocked off the top of the league last week, they reclaimed the perch they had occupied since the end of August thanks to a 2-0 win against Sheffield United and a slip-up by previous leaders Leeds.

Although victory over the bottom club was never in doubt, it was their ability to bounce back in the face of recent morale-sapping losses and crippling injuries that most pleased manager Alex Ferguson.

A crushing 3-0 defeat by Atletico Madrid in Spain in the European Cup Winners' Cup, followed three days later by their first defeat in the league, had left United demoralised and questioning their own staying power.

Injuries to defenders Gary Pallister, Dennis Irwin, Lee Martin, midfielders Mike Phelan, Paul Ince and Bryan Robson and winger Lee Sharpe had also disrupted the team's balance recently and severely stretched their resources.

But Ferguson was all smiles Saturday as Ince returned, Pallister and Robson made substitute appearances and United regained their winning form.

"I'm delighted with the result because it stops a wee bad spell for us," he said.

"It puts us on top of the league and, looking at the other results, we couldn't really have had a better weekend."

Championship several Arsenal and Liverpool both lost at home and Leeds were held to a 0-0 draw at Wimbledon which dropped them to second, nine points behind United.

Ferguson also had the satisfaction of seeing his Soviet import Andri Kanchelskis score his first goal for the club since the winger moved to Old Trafford at the end of last season.

Leeds manager Howard Wilkinson blamed tiredness for his team's lacklustre performance.

Wilkinson, so concerned about the effect of a glut of fixtures on his players that he is now giving them a five-day break, said: "We looked tired, lacked energy, sparkle and imagination."

"Staleness seems to be a problem. To be fair, with the number of games we play these days I'm knackered myself."

Arsenal manager George Graham was refusing to show any signs of panic after his side lost for the second time in a week, 1-0 at home to West Man — only four days before a tough European Cup tie with Benfica.

"I was happier with the performance today. The attitude was a lot better and on chances, in the second half especially, I felt that if we got time we would have won comfortably," he said.

But after scoring 20 goals in

five games in September, the goals have dried up with only five in the last five matches and Arsenal are now seven points behind Manchester United.

Liverpool, champions two seasons ago, are in even worse shape. The injury-hit side struggling to find any cohesion under new manager Graeme Souness, sank to their first home defeat of the season, 2-1 by Crystal Palace, and are 11 points off the pace.

Liverpool led at half-time and Souness felt his side deserved at least a point.

"I feel we have been mugged," he said after Palace achieved their first win at Anfield and first goal there for 19 years to help erase painful memories of their 9-0 defeat two years ago.

"I'm very disappointed. I felt we played better than for a while in terms of possessions but to give the goals away that we did was very disappointing," said Souness.

Palace manager Steve Coppell said: "Liverpool are vulnerable at the moment. No team in the country could survive losing three players such as Liverpool have lost in injury terms — John Barnes, Ronnie Whelan and Mark Wright."

On a day in which only 14 goals were scored in 11 first division games, spectators at Luton's 1-0 home defeat by Everton summer up the fans' frustrations by watching the Rugby Union World Cup final on television instead during the game.

Arazi's dazzling run highlights Breeders' Cup

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (R) — A horse racing superstar was born on the stretch at Churchill Downs Saturday as two-year-old Arazi blew past a Breeders' Cup field of the best U.S. juveniles with such ease he was compared to the sport's greatest.

Racing at Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby, Arazi's move was so dramatically powerful that as he brought the horse in after the race, jockey Pat Valenzuela shouted to the crowd: "Derby winner 1992..."

If Valenzuela is right, Arazi would become the first European-based horse to win the world's most famous U.S. horse race.

Fittingly, the bouncy chestnut leaped to prominence on a day of firsts and a day of upsets at the eighth Breeders' Cup, a \$10-million series of races run on a chilly, bright day in front of 66,000 fans.

Sheikh Albadou became the first European to win a Breeders' Cup dirt race by charging from behind to grab the sprint.

Dance Smartly became the first Canadian bred to win a cup race with an easy victory in the distaff.

Opening Verse became the first U.S. horse to win the mile since 1985.

Black Tie Affair became the first won-derby winner to take the classic in five years with a wire-to-wire dash.

And for the first time, there were three European winners in a series that has become more international each year.

The upsets were reflected on the tote board as Sheikh Albadou paid \$54.60 for a \$2 bet in the

sprint, Opening Verse \$5.40 in the mile and Miss Alleged \$6.20 in the turf.

But it was Arazi, the favourite in the juvenile, who stole the show.

A two-year-old trained by Francois Boutin, Arazi had won six successive races in Europe before shipping across the Atlantic and there was concern how he would handle the U.S. dirt course, his first time running on a left-hand track.

He eliminated all doubts. Arazi fell 15 lengths off the pace at one point. But then he put on a charge that sent chills through racing fans.

The small colt turned on the speed to weave through the field, grabbing the lead and pulling away on what appeared to be instincts alone, without any urging from his jockey, who said he was holding the horse back the last 60 yards of the race.

Speaking of the horse's ability to accelerate, Valenzuela said: "He has the best turn of foot I have ever experienced."

Bruce Headley, trainer of second place finisher Bertrando, said: "We ran against the best horse in the world today and he looked like a monster, like Secretariat or Swaps."

U.S. airplane manufacturer Allen Paulson, co-owner of the horse, said the race was "unbelievable" and said he would aim for the Kentucky Derby.

The world's richest race, the \$3 million classic, belonged to Black Tie Affair, an Irish-bred who travelled 14,000 miles around the United States to race this year, including six straight wins.

declarer returned to hand with the queen of spades and ran the eight of diamonds when West followed — a safety play to protect against a 4-1 break. Declarer mentally patted himself on the back when East showed out. However, after cashing the king of diamonds declarer needed two entries to establish and run the suit, and the ace of clubs was the only sure one. In an attempt to secure another, declarer tried the club finesse — down one.

We feel sure that most declarers would have played the hand in exactly the same fashion. Our correspondence, however, suggests that many of our readers would have spotted a slip in technique. Did you?

Declarer lost an entry at trick one! Correct was to play the jack of hearts from dummy. If East produces the queen, declarer can win and the ten of hearts will now become the extra entry; if East does not cover, declarer still has the king of hearts with which to return to hand.

The rest of the play proceeds in the same way. Now when the eight of diamonds wins, declarer can cash the table's remaining high diamond, come to hand with the heart entry and present West with a diamond trick. Declarer can then get back with the ace of clubs to cash the long diamond for the 12th trick.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH
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JUST A LITTLE OFF TARGET

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

AKJ9

AJ6

A4

753

WEST

7

7532

Q84

Q1075

Q108

SOUTH

Q52

K10

J863

AQ6

The bidding:

South West North East

1 Pass 1 Pass

INT Pass 2NT Pass

Pass Pass

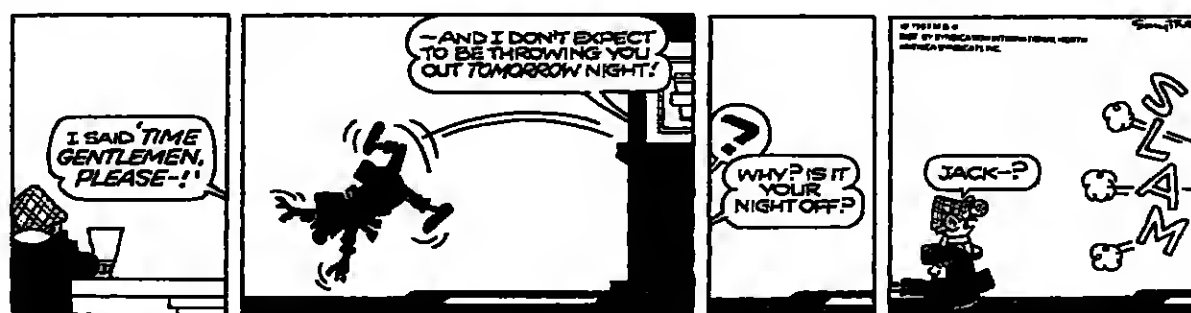
Opening lead: Three of

Declarer was guilty of a subtle error in the play of this hand. See if you can do better.

South had a borderline opening bid — we would have been more supportive had the long suit been a major. North probed for a 4-4 spade fit, then bounced direct to a small slam in no trump when South announced a balanced minimum by rebidding one no trump.

Declarer played low from dummy on the heart opening lead and captured East's queen with the king. After cashing the ace of diamonds,

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Sometimes that are no longer necessary in your life growth pattern can be eliminated now without you feeling a sense of loss or pain. Act according to current needs, and new circumstances.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You can go straight to that prominent person and let him know what he can do to help you with your career or outside interests so your worldly dreams can come true.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You have many good new ideas that are based now on good common sense and without resentment and who expect where you are uniformed to soon put in motion.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) This is your moment to show you are the one who does pay his obligations promptly and without resentment and who expect where you are uniformed to soon put in motion.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Get into the various means by which you can gain the good will of partners who are important to you and do the things that they hope you will do.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) This is that moment for you to get busy at those various tasks at your fingertips and get them behind you in a highly efficient manner so fellow associates are pleased.

VERGO (August 22 to September 22) Seek out that character who makes you laugh or otherwise happy and join with this person in the entertainment or the amusements that you both like.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Do those little courtesies that cause your family to realize that they mean a great deal to you and that you are willing to

go along with what they want and SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Whatever you would like to do to meet much to you in daily contacts be improved if you will discuss and over with your companions.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Make a point now to down to cases with those who have their power to aid you to have income and who knows what to do improve your property.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 20) You are now able to see what best for you to do in order to please your own personal longings and to be gage between yourself and expect.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) Your interest in the lighter side of life should avoid getting into those practical matters that require more of your attention than you're giving them.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) Now you find that a good friend has someone that can be of the great helplessness to you and you would wish to listen closely and make notes.

Today's child: If your child were to today also or be his ability to make great deal of happiness in the lives their parents, other siblings and the lucky persons who happen to come touch with them along life road, he results for this person are those pay through cooperative ventures lavishly shared change.

The saint's legend, they do not get it. What you make of your life largely up to you.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I feel we have been mugged," he said after Palace achieved their first win at Anfield and first goal there for 19 years to help erase painful memories of their 9-0 defeat two years ago.

"I'm very disappointed. I felt we played better than for a while in terms of possessions but to give the goals away that we did was very disappointing," said Souness.

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هكذا من الأصل

Financial Markets

Journal of Finance
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary
(October 28-November 1, 1991)

AMMAN — The U.S. unit seemed to have entered a transitory phase last week as market participants started to reassess their forecasts of the U.S. economic recovery. A set of negative U.S. economic reports triggered a series of sharp dollar drops, before the U.S. currency ended the week an average of 3.19 per cent lower against European currencies and 1.34 per cent lower against the yen.

The U.S. unit started at its highest closing levels for the week Monday, due to short covering ahead of the release of third quarter GNP figures Tuesday. Observers maintained that exchange rates had come to reflect expectations of an annualised GNP growth rate for the third quarter of 2.5% to 3%, in line with the treasury secretary's comments over the weekend. This provided support to the dollar in spite of remarks by the Fed Chairman about the slowness of the U.S. economic recovery and the possibility of a discount rate cut. The election of Kijichi Miyazawa as the new Japanese prime minister intensified expectations of a Japanese interest rate decline, reflecting favourably on the dollar, which closed at 1.7179 marks, 1.6940 dollars to the pound sterling and 132.32 yen to the dollar.

The dollar started its sharp descent Tuesday following a consumer survey report showing consumer confidence had eroded to a recessionary level of 60.4% in October, compared to 72.9% the previous month. The report came as a confirmation of the negative picture painted by Fed remarks the previous day. Third quarter GNP in the U.S., on the other hand, stood at 2.4% compared to expectations of 2.5-3%. Market participants therefore started to attach even greater significance to October's employment data, expected Friday, to provide clues as to the medium term direction of dollar exchange rates.

The U.S. currency continued to drop against European currencies Wednesday in the wake of signs that the Fed was trying to push the Fed funds rate by 0.25% lower to 5%, through open market operations. Analysts were unclear, however, about the precise nature and implications of this move. Some attributed it to purely technical motives, while others considered it a prelude to a discount rate cut Friday if the employment figures prove unfavourable. The yen's weakness against the mark kept it from rising against the dollar.

While trading remained subdued Thursday, Friday witnessed another sharp drop in dollar exchange rates, taking it to its lowest closing levels of the week. Non-farm payrolls dropped by 1,000 in October, manufacturing jobs declined by 65,000 and the unemployment rate rose by 0.1% to 6.8%. Although the dollar's drop was limited at first, in the absence of the widely expected discount rate cut, a state of pessimism and agitation nevertheless overshadowed the market preserving expectations of such a move taking place next week. The sharp drop occurred after the dollar breached support at 1.6550 marks, which triggered a wave of dollar selling.

As for this week, a number of analysts maintained that the dollar was not oversold yet, and that the possibility of a further decline to 1.63 marks cannot be ruled out.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	25/10/1991 Close	1/11/1991 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.7130	1.7675	3.18%
Deutsche Mark	1.6999	1.6445	3.37%
Swiss Franc	1.4875	1.4435	3.04%
French Franc	5.5010	5.6235	3.16%
Japanese Yen	131.49	129.75	1.34%

LSD Per STD

Euro-Currency Interest Rates

Currency	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	5.25	5.56	4.93	5.18
Sterling Pound	10.45	10.25	10.31	10.06
Deutsche Mark	9.12	9.37	8.93	9.25
Swiss Franc	8.00	8.25	7.87	8.18
French Franc	8.87	9.18	8.93	9.18
Japanese Yen	6.53	5.75	6.21	5.65

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.684	0.686
Sterling Pound	1.2080	1.2140
Deutsche Mark	0.4156	0.4177
Swiss Franc	0.4733	0.4757
French Franc	0.1216	0.1222
Japanese Yen	0.5269	0.5295
Dutch Guilder	0.3690	0.3708
Swedish Krona	0.1128	0.1134
Italian Lira	0.0555	0.0558
Belgian Franc	0.02017	0.02027

Per 100

Statistics show overall fuel efficiency down in 1992 cars

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fuel efficiency in 1992 cars is down from last year's models, the sixth consecutive year with little or no reduction in new automobiles' appetite for gasoline, the government has reported.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) annual fuel economy statistics covering about 1,000 cars, the 1992 models — both domestic and imports — show an overall average of 27.5 miles (44.25 kilometres) per gallon (3.8 litres) on the highway.

That is down from 27.8 miles (44.73 kilometres) per gallon (3.8 litres) in 1991 and is the industry's poorest showing since the mid-1980s, when a decade-long surge in improvements levelled off.

"It's a slight decrease," said Eldert Bontekoe, manager for certification and fuel economy for the EPA in Ann Arbor, Michigan. "I wouldn't jump up and down and say it's really big, but it does suggest some level of decrease from last year to this year."

Six of the 10 highest-ranked 1992 cars get 50 miles (80 kilometres) per gallon (3.8 litres) or better, but they were rare exceptions. Topping the list was the one-litre minicompact Geo Metro XFI, which gets 53 miles (85.3 kilometres) per gallon (3.8 litres) in city driving and 58 miles (93.3 kilometres) per gallon (3.8 litres) on the highway.

Bringing up the rear was the luxurious two-seater Lamborghini Diablo, which gets nine miles (14.5 kilometres) per gallon (3.8

litres) in town and 14 miles (22.5 kilometres) per gallon (3.8 litres) on the highway.

The report comes as the senate debates legislation that would require each automaker to improve its overall fuel efficiency by 40 per cent with a decade.

The industry bitterly opposes the bill and contends only minor improvements are possible that quickly. But industry critics say automakers can reach the bill's target using currently available technology.

A spokesman for the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Association, a trade group representing the big three U.S. automakers, said it would have no immediate comment on the EPA report.

Four of the 10 best performing cars were variations of the Geo, a Japanese-made minicompact sold through General Motors. Four others were versions of the Honda Civic and the remaining two were versions of the Suzuki Swift.

All get at least 39 miles (62.7 kilometres) per gallon (3.8 litres) in the city and 43 miles (69.2 kilometres) per gallon (3.8 litres) on the highway.

At the other extreme were the Lamborghini, five Rolls Royce models, two versions of the Aston Martin Virage saloon, the Ferrari Testarossa, and the Ferrari F40. None did better than 12 miles (19.3 kilometres) per gallon (3.8 litres) in the city or 17 miles (27.3 kilometres) per gallon (3.8 litres) on the highway.

IMF to grant Mongolia \$30 million

ULAN BATOR (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) will give Mongolia a \$30 million grant to help it through "immense" economic difficulties as it switches from 70 years of communism to capitalism, IMF head Michel Camdessus said.

If Mongolia kept fighting inflation and pushing through free market reforms, the IMF would advise the world community to continue its support, Mr. Camdessus told a news conference. Mongolia became the 155th member of the IMF in February this year.

Since throwing off decades of monopolistic, communist rule last year, espousing a multi-party system and pushing through many free-market reforms, it has won aid and recognition from many capitalist countries and organisations.

Peking announces cleanup of tourist industry

PEKING (AP) — City officials have fired 12 tour guides for accepting kickbacks and closed down 23 hotels, restaurants and shops that violated tourism regulations, official reports have said.

Tour guides and taxi drivers have been ordered to turn over illegal commissions, and so far 80 per cent have done so, the state-run Xinhua news agency said. It said they handed over more than 800,000 yuan (\$150,000).

Xinhua and the China Daily newspaper said the moves marked the start of a planned three-month campaign to clean

up the tourism industry. Because it is one of China's biggest generators of hard currency, corruption is rife.

The cleanup is part of preparations for a major tourism promotion next year called "Visit China '92." Tour agencies have been announcing new programmes and many cities are planning folk arts festivals in hopes of attracting more Western tourists.

"Irregular service charges, poor quality standards for food and other services, or loss of valuable possessions of guests will result in severe punishment," Xinhua said. It did not specify

what the punishment would be. After several years of explosive growth, China's tourism industry suffered a serious blow in 1989 when the army opened fire on student demonstrators for democratic change in Peking. Tourists already in China fled, and planned tours were cancelled.

The government insists that the industry is back to normal. It said 16.3 million overseas visitors arrived in the first half of the year and said this surpassed 1988's record figure by 21 per cent. However, the figures are padded by including non-tourist visitors.

Time Warner reports \$62 million loss

NEW YORK (R) — Time Warner Inc., the huge entertainment and media company, has reported a third-quarter loss of \$62 million as massive debts wiped out underlying earnings of more than \$500 million.

The loss equaled \$2.66 a share, an improvement from a year earlier when the company was \$91 million in the red with an earnings-per-share loss of \$4.05. Revenues for the latest period were \$2.94 billion, up from \$2.90

billion a year ago. Time Warner also lost \$144 million for the first nine months of 1991, or \$8.99 a share, down from a loss of \$193 million or \$10.59 a share, a year earlier.

Time Warner Chairman Steven Ross said the losses masked record quarterly performances in some business areas.

"We are pleased that despite continuing softness in the world economy three of our businesses

— music, cable and HBO — posted record results in the quarter," he said.

"The restructuring steps taken by our publishing group will better position that business for future growth," he added.

A \$505 million operating profit before taxes, interest costs and depreciation in the quarter was swamped by payments on \$8.7 billion of debt and other costs

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with the full eight per cent.

Saudia Arabia, although not a member of OECD, was awarded the rating because of its good record in supplying funds to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"The decision by the Basic committee not to give Kuwait and other Middle Eastern countries an OECD risk weighting was a political judgement made at the time and the Gulf war has proved the point," the source said.

"Kuwait and the Middle East are simply not as politically stable as OECD countries," he pointed out.

He said the reluctance of British banks to participate in the loan reflected their own estimation of Kuwait as a borrowing risk and was not due to the fact that they would have to back the loan

take effect in January 1993 but banks are bringing capital ratios into line in advance.

Before the Gulf war, when the oil-rich emirate had no need to borrow on international capital markets, the risk weighting was a matter of prestige, the source said.

But the issue has become more acute since war damage cut oil exports and revenue to a trickle and forced the country to find funds abroad for reconstruction.

The source said that if Kuwait found in future that its country risk weighting was costing it higher borrowing margins, there might be a case for a review of its rating.

"But the evidence so far does not show this," he said.

Push for faster growth spurs environment fears for World Bank

WASHINGTON (R) — As nations from Mexico to the Soviet Union scramble to enjoy the fruits of capitalism, the World Bank faces the tough task of trying to ensure the environment is not damaged in the process.

Largely at the prodding of outside pressure groups, the bank has moved in recent years to pay more attention to environmental concerns in mapping out economic strategies for the developing world.

But environmentalists say it has not gone far enough. "They have not fundamentally transformed the nature of their operations," said Christopher

Flavin, vice president at World watch Institute. "The bulk of their lending still goes into large capital-intensive, industrial projects."

Critics charge those loans — for everything from dams to mineral projects — have hurt the environment and argue the bank's policies for promoting economic growth in the developing world won't work in the long term.

"The World Bank... lacks a coherent vision of a sustainable economy and thus its lending priorities often run counter to the goal of creating one," Mr. Flavin

and fellow institute vice president Sandra Postel wrote recently.

Thailand has enjoyed an economic boom in recent years but the activists question just how many people have benefited.

"They say that behind the boom lies a 'record of widespread suffering, ecological degradation, economic injustice, human rights violations and social conflict.'"

Over the past few years, the World Bank has significantly increased its number of loans devoted mainly to the protection of the environment. But those credits are still a small percentage of the \$20 billion it hands out each year.

The bank also hired as its environment director well-known environmentalist Mohamed El Ashry from the World Resources Institute, making environmentalists hopeful of quick changes.

"In the past, the bank financed projects that had major adverse impacts on the environment," Mr. El Ashry said of the World Bank.

He said it must integrate environmental concerns into all its economic development thinking and activities, but recognised "fully incorporating environmental concerns into the bank's operations will take time."

Reed toils to correct Citicorp's 'errors'

NEW YORK (R) — Citicorp, the largest U.S. bank, is unlikely to reinstate its common dividend until 1993, its chairman John Reed has said, showing the long, uphill struggle facing the battered banking industry.

Citicorp omitted its common stock dividend after reporting a loss of \$885 million for the third quarter.

The dividend suspension was the first in the bank's 179-year history, a fact Citicorp said proved how serious the bank was in turning itself around.

Mr. Reed said he was working hard to correct the bank's "errors": Third World loan problems, "paying a big price to get into the consumer business," souring real estate loans and loans in Australia.

And he admitted the problems faced by the giant bank are not due to its size, but largely due to human error.

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Tuesday's elections could be referendum on Bush

WASHINGTON (R) — Americans on Tuesday will elect a senator and two state governors in polls whose outcome will be viewed as a gauge of President George Bush's popularity.

But the most controversial election currently pending is not scheduled until Nov. 16 in the southern state of Louisiana, when 41-year-old former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke challenges former incumbent Edwin Edwards for the governorship.

On Tuesday the focus is on industrial Pennsylvania, which will choose a successor to Senator John Heinz, killed in a plane crash earlier this year.

Competing are former Governor Dick Thornburgh, who quit Mr. Bush's cabinet to stand for the Senate, and Senator Harris Wofford, a Democrat appointed after Heinz's death.

Mr. Thornburgh, who was a popular governor and Bush's attorney general, was favoured in polls by 40 points only weeks ago. But a week before the election a statewide poll of 738 voters showed him leading Sen. Wofford by only 45 to 44 per cent.

Sen. Wofford has been trying to use the election as a referendum on Mr. Bush, blaming Washington for economic hard times and high unemployment in the state.

Analysts say Sen. Wofford's call for a national health care plan has helped his surge in the polls and forced Mr. Thornburgh onto the defensive.

A Wofford win would be a stunning upset and an embarrassment to Mr. Bush, whose ratings in polls have dropped over handling of the economy.

The two state governorships at stake Tuesday, in Mississippi and Kentucky, were once believed ripe for capture by the Republicans but now appear out of reach for Mr. Bush's party.

In Mississippi, Democratic incumbent Ray Mabus, a Harvard-educated reformer, had about a 14-point lead in polls against Republican millionaire businessman Kirk Fordice.

In Kentucky, Democratic Lieutenant Governor Brereton Jones, a millionaire horse breeder, had a 10-point lead over Republican congressman Larry Hopkins to succeed Democratic Governor Wallace Wilkinson, who was barred by law from seeking re-election.

In Washington state, a referendum limiting terms in office threatens to wipe out much of the state's congressional delegation within the next few years.

Riding a wave of anti-government sentiment, limitation has gained the support of 60 to 70 per cent of the state's voters, according to recent polls.

Unlike term limits adopted last year in Colorado, California and Oklahoma, the Washington state proposal would count years already served in office toward the ceilings.

They would bar half its delegates in the U.S. House of Representatives from seeking re-election in November, 1992, including speaker Tom Foley, the nation's third-ranking public official after the president and vice president.

The ballot initiative would limit both state and federal officeholders to six or 12 years, depending on the office.

Meanwhile, five of the six major Democratic candidates kicked off the 1992 U.S. presidential campaign Saturday with a Bush-bashing singfest in the state which holds the first preferential vote of the nominating process.

"It's time to take the gloves off," Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa told 2,500 people packed into a steamy National Guard armory in Manchester for the New Hampshire state Democratic Party's Congress.

"They want to play tackle football and I'm not going to play touch," he said.

While the five Democratic hopefuls were clumping against each other for their party's nomination, they all took their best shots at President George Bush.

In a carnival-like atmosphere amid balloons, stilted Uncle Sams and cheering sections, they challenged Mr. Bush to stop catering to what they called his "fat cat" constituency and concentrate on domestic ills instead of foreign policy.

Of the major declared candidates, only former California Governor Edmund Brown skipped the symbolic beginning of the battle for delegates in New Hampshire's Feb. 18, 1992, primary election.

Yugoslav army shells refugees in Dubrovnik

DUBROVNIK, Yugoslavia (R) — Yugoslav army and navy gunners shelled refugee hotels in the besieged Croatian port of Dubrovnik Saturday night, wounding a number of people and making one 1,500 homeless.

Sporadic shooting with machineguns was heard Sunday while people picked their way through the wreckage from the previous day's heavy shelling.

Not a room in the Plakir and Tirenna Hotels, about one kilometre from the city's historic medieval old town, was left undamaged after a bombardment by army artillery, mortars, tanks and naval units in the city harbour.

A general alert was sounded throughout the city Saturday evening and terrified residents, many of them refugees who had fled to Dubrovnik from fighting elsewhere, sought shelter in the hotel basements.

"The whole hill was shaking," said Mara Drivanovic.

Dr. Zaim Custovic, working in a makeshift clinic in the Tirenna Hotel, said three people had been seriously wounded by shrapnel and others had minor wounds. There appeared to be no deaths.

Witnesses insisted that the two refugee hotels had been specifically targeted, as surrounding areas were undamaged. A Reuters

correspondent, inspecting the damage, found no evidence of any Croatian military presence in either hotel.

The Neptune Hotel, 500 metres away, used as a billet by Croatian soldiers, was untouched.

As a new alert sounded Sunday and machine-gun fire resounded across empty streets, the refugees, ranging in age from a day-old baby to a 92-year-old woman, milled aimlessly around the wrecked hotels or sifted through the wreckage in their rooms for belongings.

Witnesses said at least 50 shells had fallen on and around the Plakir Hotel. Like the Tirenna it was surrounded by craters, the debris of burnt-out cars and unexploded mortar bombs.

Mr. Custovic said about 80 of the refugees were suffering from shock.

A 15-year-old boy, Konrad Roenovich, cried hysterically for half an hour in the hotel lobby. Momentarily calmer, he blurted out: "Why didn't Europe react immediately? We'll all be dead by the time it does."

There are about 60,000 people in Dubrovnik, a quarter of them refugees who fled from their homes in surrounding villages and suburbs as the army advanced on the city last month.

The army and navy have blockaded Dubrovnik since Oct. 1 to drive out militiamen from the rebel Republic of Croatia, which declared its independence from Yugoslavia on June 25.

Doctors decried the cramped quarters and wanted to evacuate casualties and refugees to other areas but said there were few safe places left.

Meanwhile in Brussels, European Community (EC) foreign ministers Monday plan to draw up a battery of economic sanctions against Yugoslavia, ready to be introduced without delay if their latest peace drive is thwarted.

The ministers are due to decide which forms of economic pressure to bring into operation against any republic that does not give a clear "yes" next day to its plan for the orderly break-up of Yugoslavia in its present form.

But with Serb-led armed forces stepping up attacks across Croatia at the weekend, doubts persisted on how tough the sanctions could be, and whether EC threats alone would induce Serbian leaders or hardline local commanders to stop fighting.

If Tuesday's session of the EC-sponsored peace conference in



Croatian children in war-damaged and besieged port city of Dubrovnik huddle together while waiting for a ferry to take them to Split.

the Hague reveals no change of heart by Serbia, EC ministers meeting on the sidelines of the Rome NATO summit Thursday and Friday will be empowered to order immediate sanctions.

Serbian President Slobodan

Milosevic has rejected the threat of economic sanctions, while Croatia has warned of the risk of a Serbian "mock signature" of any treaty on Yugoslavia's future as a ploy to ward off international action.

IRA kills 2 U.K. soldiers in hospital

BELFAST (R) — Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas bombed a security hospital in Belfast, killing two British soldiers and prompting the government to condemn the guerrillas as "fascist beasts" who deserve to be in hell.

Seven people were injured when the bomb smouldered in the military wing of Musgrave Park Hospital, exploded Saturday, police said.

The IRA, fighting to end British rule over Northern Ireland, hid the Semtex bomb in the basement of the hospital where victims of the province's 22-year-old conflict are treated.

The bomb, planted by a staff bar and directly under an operating theatre, exploded as medical staff sat in a recreation room watching the closing minutes of the World Cup rugby final between Australia and England on television.

A senior British government

official, Richard Needham, white with rage after visiting the devastated hospital, said of the IRA: "Hell is where these people ought to be."

Mr. Needham, voicing one of the strongest British condemnations of the IRA, added: "No-body who believes in political democracy will ever give one millimetre to the fascist beasts who undertake this sort of mayhem."

Leading Northern Ireland trade union official Tom Gillen said: "We have reached a new low in depravity."

Among the injured was a five-year-old girl treated for burns and smoke inhalation. She is the daughter of one of the injured survivors of the blast, which blew out windows and security ceilings.

The dead and injured had to be dug out from the rubble. Rescue teams, working in pouring rain and fading light, had to tread cautiously for fear of ruptured gas mains igniting.

An IRA spokesman, telephoning a Belfast radio station to claim responsibility, said: "We planted the bomb in a bunker in the officers' mess. We breached high security."

The security lapse at the heavily guarded hospital immediately prompted a top-level review by the British army and Northern Ireland police to see how the IRA managed to smuggle in the 20-pound (nine-kg) bomb.

It went off just metres from a children's ward full of mentally handicapped youngsters and others suffering from cerebral palsy. Some were as young as 14 months old.

Orthopaedic surgeon Ken Graham said: "The children had the frightening experience of the noise of the ceilings coming in and the room filling up with smoke. It really was a very shocking experience for all of them."

The confederation of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), the main strike coordinator, accused Inkatha Sunday of fomenting strike hysteria.

"At a time when we have called for maximum discipline and self-restraint, government ministers and Inkatha appear to be doing their best to whip up hysteria and a fear psychosis around the general strike," a COSATU spokesman said.

The spokesman accused Law and Order Minister Hertzog Kriel of provoking the situation with hardline, provocative statements.

"They leave the clear impression there is a security cabal in the government determined to provoke confrontation and then attempt to lay the blame at the door of the (anti-apartheid) democratic movement," he said.

COSATU and the police have organised joint liaison committees in an attempt to minimise unrest during the strike.

Mobutu accuses Western powers of interference

PARIS (AP) — Embattled Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko has accused Western powers of interfering in the internal affairs of his country by trying to force him to adopt political reforms.

In an interview Saturday with the French television network TF-1, Mr. Mobutu pilloried France and other Western nations pressuring him to accept opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi as prime minister.

"This is serious interference," Mr. Mobutu said. "It's destabilisation. The people in the street haven't demanded democratisation. It's me who wanted it."

Mr. Mobutu, who has ruled the sprawling central African country for 26 years, recently appointed staunch opponent Mr. Tshisekedi as prime minister in late September at French and Belgian urging.

The two countries had sent nearly 2,000 paratroopers to Zaire following riots in the capital, Kinshasa, and other cities by unpaid soldiers. They said the unrest indicated that Mr. Mobutu should reform his corrupt, dictatorial rule.

But Mr. Mobutu refused to relinquish control of the army, as Mr. Tshisekedi demanded, and eventually fired him. The Zairean leader last week installed a government under new Prime Minister Bernardin Mungul-Diakia, a man once jailed for embezzling state funds.

"We're going to work seriously together," Mr. Mobutu said of Mr. Mungul-Diakia. "We're not joking anymore. Tshisekedi is a citizen like any other, and he's going to have to submit to the laws of the republic."

France and Belgium have criticised Mr. Mobutu for firing Mr. Tshisekedi and have rejected Mr. Mungul-Diakia, saying his government does not have the support needed to lead the country to democracy or restore the confidence of foreign nations and institutions.

After evacuating nearly 20,000 foreign nationals over the past six weeks, France withdrew its last troops in Zaire Thursday. The last Belgian troops should be gone by Monday.

Opposition leaders fear Mr. Mobutu, who came to power in a military coup in 1965, will launch a bloody crackdown once the Western forces leave. They had unsuccessfully appealed to France and Belgium to keep their troops in Zaire.

Zaireans are weary after years of corruption by Mr. Mobutu and his ruling elite that has left them poverty-stricken and ruined the mineral-rich economy of a nation of 34 million people.

Taiwan sends team to China to mend strained relations

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan, seeking to mend strained relations with China, sent a delegation to Peking Sunday for talks on ways to fight a wave of piracy and smuggling in the Taiwan Straits.

Four officials of Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation, which handles politically sensitive relations with China, will discuss ways to fight maritime crime, repatriation of criminals and visits to Taiwan by relatives of detainees.

"All eyes are on the trip, which will serve as a barometer for future relations between Taiwan and the Chinese mainland," state-run television said.

The delegation, led by Foundation Secretary-General Chen Chang-Wei, will visit Peking for five days.

"If successful the talks will lay the foundation for mutual trust," Huang Kun-Huei, chairman of the Taiwan cabinet's Mainland Affairs Council, told reporters.

Relations have worsened in recent months, partly because of a spate of pirate attacks and anti-smuggling operations against fishing boats from both sides.

Taiwan suspended a joint agricultural development project with China earlier this year.

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N. Korean explosion reportedly kills 80

SEOUL (Agencies) — A mystery explosion which rocked a North Korean town four days ago killed up to 80 people and wrecked or damaged hundreds of buildings, a South Korean Defence Ministry source said Sunday.

"I heard between 60 and 80 residents were killed and many others injured in the explosion," he said.

The blast occurred early Wednesday near the railway station at P'yongyang, seven kilometres north of the central part of the military demarcation line dividing the peninsula.

The source said it destroyed or damaged nearly 400 buildings within a radius of four kilometres.

"We don't know what caused the blast. There are no signs of unusual movement at the border because of the incident," he added. No further details were available.

North Korea, a secretive Stalinist state still officially at war with the South since their 1950-53 conflict, made an unusual mention of the accident in radio reports Thursday.

Those reports gave no indication of the scale of the disaster but said the army was assisting. It was not immediately known whether North Korea has any major military installations in the area, one of the fiercest battlegrounds of the Korean War.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said Saturday a southern military observation post had reported a huge explosion and flames in P'yongyang. He said the ministry was unable to determine what caused the blast.

"Taking into account the scale and the flames and sound, it is believed that there was an explosion either in a big armory or an oil storage tank," he said.

A Defence Ministry source quoted by Yonhap Domestic News Agency Sunday said the blast was not thought to be related to nuclear arms.

Seoul and some Western states say the North is trying to build a nuclear bomb. North Korea denies this but has refused to open its facilities to international inspection.

The two Koreas are holding talks on a possible non-aggression pact aimed at easing four decades of tension on the peninsula.

North Korea Sunday said that the United States stop promising nuclear protection to South Korea, and that both those nations halt war games it described as "surprise-attack exercise against us."

It was the latest reply to international pressure on the North to open its nuclear facilities to inspection. Experts say the hardline Communist North is not far from developing nuclear weapons.

Last week, American news reports said the United States planned to withdraw all nuclear weapons from South Korea, and then renew pressure on the North over inspections. The North then insisted that U.S. bases in South Korea would have to be inspected too.

On Sunday, the official Workers Party newspaper Rodong Shinmun denounced what it said were U.S. commitments to keep South Korea under "nuclear umbrella protection."

It demanded that in addition to removing all U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea, the United States must "completely remove the nuclear threat to us, not loudly advertising 'nuclear umbrella protection'."

France, which has proposed setting up the nucleus of a European army with Germany has dissociated itself from much of the military detail including NATO's new policy of making its sharply-reduced nuclear arsenal a "weapon of last resort."

France has its own nuclear forces and left NATO's military structure for defence planning 25 years ago.

Paris wants a European Community summit next month in the Netherlands to address the question of whether the EC should have its own defence arm, rather than discuss it in Rome.

Despite months of debate within NATO, the new strategy refers only to general principles on this issue.

These state that NATO is the main forum for the defence of its members but that European nations are free to strengthen their own contribution to security now that the U.S. forces in Europe will be cut by about half to 150,000.

Japanese royal brings calls for palace equality

TOKYO (AP) — After 26 years of imperial family was expected to be a prince, but, alas, when Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko's first grandchild was born last month, it was another girl, not the princess who, by law, can't assume the throne.

The enormously popular Princess Aiko, given birth to a boy, the new member of the world's oldest hereditary imperial family would have been third in line to the throne, after his father, Prince Akihito, and his uncle, Prince Naruhito. But as a girl, she doesn't count. And when she marries, she'll lose her standing altogether. "It's discrimination and it's unconstitutional," said Prince Akihito.

Prince Naruhito, 31, is a member of parliament. Ms. Aiko, 1, is a Socialist, has argued against laws stipulating only men can assume the throne. She said the birth of Princess Aiko shows she intends to revive the issue in parliament. Ms. Aiko's mother, the male-only succession law reflects the men-first attitude that dominates Japanese society.

"How can we expect the public to change if the palace doesn't?" she asked. Along with Emperor Akihito's two sons — Akihito, 31, and Prince Naruhito, 31 — and single — five princes are in line to assume the throne. Emperor Akihito's third and youngest child is Princess Noriko, 22.

Stevie Wonder to perform two charity concerts

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Stevie Wonder will perform two benefit concerts to raise money for the uninsured cancer patient who needs \$150,000 for an operation that could save her life. Wonder said that Margaret Darbarbar, a desperate need for a bone marrow transplant "touched" her heart. Ms. Darbarbar, 44, was diagnosed with breast cancer in December and underwent a radical mastectomy in July, said a statement released by a breast cancer spokesman. Subsequent tests found the cancer had spread to her liver. The West Los Angeles resident went into remission after chemotherapy treatments, but doctors said she required a bone marrow transplant to survive, according to the statement. Ms. Darbarbar is an art teacher at a private school and her husband is a self-employed construction worker. Before Ms. Darbarbar's illness was diagnosed, the couple decided they couldn't afford medical insurance. Wonder said he will perform both concerts Nov. 9 in Los Angeles, with tickets selling at \$50, \$100 and \$150 a piece.

Mexicans honour AIDS sufferers

MEXICO CITY (R) — Mexican couples placed condoms on altar flowers, sweets Saturday to remember the 4,000 countrymen who have died of AIDS. In a poignant tribute to traditional day of the dead celebrations, homosexual organisations Gacilla Gay, Grupo Raro (queer group) and others anti-AIDS campaigners set up brightly-coloured altars in a public square in the capital. The altars offered drinks, food and cigarettes to the dead in a tribute to the day of festivity to honour the dead. One offering, covered with teddy bears and toys, was dedicated to one-year-old Mexican fundamen-

ten, a slim child from outside Mexico City who died earlier this year of AIDS. She contracted the disease from her mother, who said she was in the womb. Other altars said some 180 children in Mexico have died of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Fisherman eats bucket of live worms for charity

SWANSEA, Wales (R) — British fisherman ate a stomach-churning bucket of live worms to raise money for charity Friday, drawing fire from an animal welfare group.

Llewellyn Diamond, 53, who raised about £500 (£1,000) for a hospital, said: "It's like a set of spaghetti. A quick chomp swallows them wriggling too much to eat and don't think it's cruel to eat them." But the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals disagreed. "We take a very dim view of just what people can do to animals and other ways to raise money," said a spokeswoman.

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